

Canadian protests

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stands firm against easing restrictions. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Call for stay on gas tax

Some Democratic senators call for the suspension of the gas tax. **NEWS, PAGE 10**

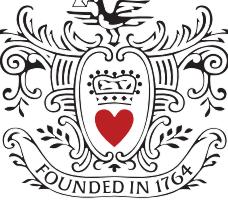
UConn streak ends

UConn falls to Villanova for first conference loss since March 2013. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Mild temps continue

Partly sunny and mild, with a high of 50. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

Hartford Courant



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022



"I care too much about the Division to have the imbroglio over my efforts to ensure the very best are attracted to supervisory position to detract from the important work of the Division."

Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo, in his resignation letter

Colangelo agrees to retire

Embattled chief state's attorney steps down amid an investigation into alleged patronage hiring

By Eliza Fawcett

Hartford Courant

Embattled Chief State's Attorney Richard J. Colangelo Jr. agreed to resign on Wednesday, amid mounting pressure over an alleged patronage hiring.

In a letter submitted to the Criminal Justice Commission, Colangelo said that he would retire March 31.

"I want to thank Mr. Colangelo for doing the right thing today, under very difficult circumstances," Supreme Court Justice

Andrew McDonald, the commission chairman, said during a special meeting of the commission at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney in Rocky Hill.

During the remainder of his time in office, Colangelo will work solely on administrative duties and will not prosecute or investigate any further cases, McDonald said.

The commission also approved the appointment of John J.

■ **Inside:** Konstantinos Diamantis, the former deputy secretary of the Office of Policy and Management now at the center of a federal investigation, alleges mistreatment of his boss. **PAGE 3**

Russotto as acting Chief State's Attorney, effective April 1, until the commission appoints a successor to complete Colangelo's term. Russotto has served as deputy

chief state's attorney for Personnel, Finance and Administration since 2004.

Colangelo had been under fire for his decision to hire the daughter of a state budget officer from whom he was seeking raises for himself and other senior employees. Last week, U.S. Attorney Stanley A. Twardy Jr. — hired by Gov.

Turn to Colangelo, Page 3

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING DAY

OPTIMISTIC LAMONT UNVEILS \$24B BUDGET



Gov. Ned Lamont reviews his speech in his office Wednesday before delivering remarks to a joint session of the House and Senate on the opening day of the 2022 legislative session in Hartford. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Assembly shows partisan divide on spending plan

By Christopher Keating, Seamus McAvoy and Daniela Altamari
Hartford Courant

Gov. Ned Lamont received widespread applause during his State of the State address, but Republicans and some liberal Democrats say the Democrat's \$24.2 billion proposal fell short in many respects.

The top Democratic leaders in the legislature, who control both chambers and will directly help shape the final budget, were pleased with Lamont's opening proposals.

House Speaker Matt Ritter of Hartford said that Lamont's \$336 million tax-cut proposal, which would reduce property and car taxes, is not an election-year gimmick.

"I'll tell you why it's not. The rainy day fund is fully funded," Ritter said following Lamont's speech. "An

Turn to Reaction, Page 9

A BOOST IN CRIME SPENDING: Lamont's fiscal adjustments in the second year of the two-year budget include a \$64 million gun control and law enforcement package that calls for strengthening gun enforcement, hiring more police, reducing court backlogs, helping crime victims, and tracking guns more efficiently. The package calls for spending millions of dollars for hiring and training police, along with creating a new gun-tracing task force to stem the steady flow of illegal guns that cross the Connecticut border. Money will also be set aside for a statewide program to buy guns back from owners in order to get them out of circulation.

Governor touts 'fiscal turnaround' that will allow state to dig into the projected surplus

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont opened the 2022 legislative session Wednesday on a high note of optimism — declaring in his State of the State address that Connecticut is rebounding from years of large budget deficits, businesses moving out of state, and bond ratings downgrades.

As he faces reelection this year, Lamont said the state is stronger than when he started in 2019.

"Today, the state's in much better shape than it was three years ago, but we still have a long way to go," Lamont said in the historic Hall of the House in Hartford. "Three years ago, we were standing at the edge of a fiscal cliff, facing a \$3.7 billion budget deficit,

and today we are deciding what taxes to cut and what school programs to grow — thanks to our third consecutive year of budget surpluses."

He added, "For decades, governor after governor has increased taxes and fees. In the land of steady habits, it seemed almost inevitable. But, it was a habit I was hell-bent on breaking."

In an energetic, 31-minute speech that was interrupted repeatedly by applause, Lamont raised his voice at times while touting the theme of "the Connecticut difference" during his speech.

"Thanks, in part, to your strong bipartisan efforts, we have begun to change the narrative from fiscal crisis to fiscal turnaround," he said to

Turn to Budget, Page 9

Panel recommends plan to boost workforce diversity

A legislative task force examining the potential impact of a looming wave of state employee retirements on workplace diversity issued its final recommendations. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

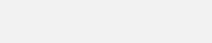
Opinion.....News, 12
Obits.....News, 14-16
Lottery.....News, 2
Classified.....News, 13

Puzzles ... Connecticut, 7, 9
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FROM PAGE ONE

Ga. statue of tribal ancestor a turnoff

Historians say it's an inaccurate and offensive depiction

By Michael Warren
Associated Press

ATLANTA — There's a problem with putting someone on a pedestal: Exposed on all sides, a hero to some can be seen as a traitor to others.

Atlanta plans to install a statue of a Native American man in its new Peace Park, where it will tower over statues of 17 civil rights icons, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Developer Rodney Mims Cook Jr. calls Chief Tomochichi "a co-founder of Georgia" who prevented massacres by inviting British Gen. James Oglethorpe to colonize his people's land in 1733.

But Cook didn't ask the Muscogee about their ancestor, and now that he's unveiled the \$300,000 bronze statue, historians say it's all wrong: "Disrespectful"



A statue of Chief Tomochichi in its temporary location outside Atlanta's Millennium Gate Museum. MICHAEL WARREN/AP 2021

and "incredibly inappropriate" are some of the reactions three tribal historians shared with The Associated Press.

They say the nearly naked figure presents an offensive and historically inaccurate conception of Native Americans and glorifies a heavily mythologized figure blamed by the Muscogee for initiating a century of ethnic cleansing.

They also say that Atlanta is erasing them again, acting as if they vanished without a fight after handing over their

land and heritage.

Even if Cook has the best intentions, there's no excuse today for failing to work with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, whose 93,100 enrolled citizens constitute the fourth-largest federally recognized tribe, said Raelyn Butler, who directs their cultural preservation division. Norma Marshall, who teaches tribal history at the College of the Muscogee Nation, and Turner Hunt, who handles thousands of tribal-patrimony inquiries annually, joined her in a call from Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

The City Council unanimously approved a plan in 2020 that would align Tomochichi with statues of the late Rep. John Lewis, Coretta Scott King and Rodney Mims Cook Sr., a white Republican legislator who stood out in Atlanta as a civil rights ally.

The recently unveiled statue portrays Tomochichi making a wide, welcoming gesture with his right hand while using his left to clutch a bear pelt that fails to cover his rear end.

"Can we put some clothes on the man, please?" Marshall said. "Is this the only statue that doesn't have any clothing on?"

In reality, Tomochichi would have worn deerskin leggings and a long white shirt with a ceremonial belt, and an elaborate bandolero bag, according to the Muscogee and other scholars. Muskogean-speaking tribes traded deer skins for European cloth, beads, guns and ammunition for a century before Oglethorpe arrived, they noted.

Cook said Tomochichi's statue was based on artwork from his 1734 trip to London to meet King George II.

But according to Western Carolina University historian Andrew Denson, those images by Willem Verelst were propaganda. They were commissioned to convince potential British migrants that Native Americans were weak and uncivilized, said Denson, whose book "Monuments to Absence" explores how white people appropriated their cultural memory.

And while school texts promote a myth of peaceful coexistence, white settlers waged ruthless extermination campaigns to force them westward, said University of Georgia historian Claudio Saunt, who wrote "Unworthy Republic — The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory."

Saunt called the statue a monstrosity. He said the Tomochichi statue's gesturing right hand says to the colonists, "Here, come and take it."

Cook said he tried for years to discuss his "Georgia Peacemakers" plan with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Alabama. But Hunt said that group, which won federal recognition in 1984 and built a casino that displaced Muscogee graves, isn't culturally, historically or linguistically related to the people who lived in present-day Georgia.

Cook said he's eager to connect now that he knows the Muscogee are the ones to talk with, to see if they'll

participate in his vision and tell a fuller story.

"I'm glad to have the conversation because we need to talk about all this," Cook said. "Let's not tear down. Let's just add the story and correct it."

The council approved a historical oversight committee to ensure "accuracy and authenticity" when it authorized the mayor to enter into a lease agreement with Cook's foundation. But Cook said then-Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms never signed it.

The Muscogee historians said Oglethorpe called Tomochichi a king to serve his colonial ambitions, but he was more like a small-town mayor.

Banished by his people, he declared himself leader of the "Yamacraws," fewer than 200 outcasts who sought refuge among the British. He lacked authority to give away land, and Butler said the Yamacraw people lived on only in the settlers' imagination after his 1739 death.

Virus

from Page 1

officials have been pressing for clearer federal guidelines for easing or ending restrictions, but federal officials have been slow to preview potential changes. That's led to a patchwork of local and state policies that differ widely from one place to the next.

"We are working on that guidance," said Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. "As we've been encouraged by the current trends, we are not there yet."

Some critics say that's not good enough.

"The tragic thing is that these are governors that would probably have

followed the White House's guidance," said Dr. Leana Wen, a former Baltimore health commissioner. "They wanted CDC input and asked for it, but without a clear timeline, at some point they had to decide that they couldn't wait any more. The fault is not theirs, but the CDC's and by extension, President Biden's, which, with each passing day, is making itself less and less relevant."

Biden's hesitance is driven in part by the sting of his fleeting "declaration of independence" from the virus last summer, which proved premature in the face of the delta and then omicron strains.

Now, though, cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19 have dropped markedly since they peaked

earlier this year amid the spread of the highly-transmissible omicron variant, and the vast majority of Americans are protected against the virus by effective vaccines and boosters.

Still, more than 2,000 people infected with the virus die in the U.S. each day.

Asked whether Biden appears to be out of touch with the country, White House press secretary Jen Psaki defended his caution.

"As a federal government we have the responsibility to rely on data on science, on the medical experts," she said.

"That doesn't move at the speed of politics, it moves at the speed of data," she added.

Asked whether Americans should follow less-restrictive state or local rules or the stricter federal guidance, she

repeated the White House's daily counsel: "We would advise any American to follow the CDC guidelines."

The CDC continues to recommend indoor mask-wearing in places of "substantial or high transmission" of the virus, which as of Wednesday was all of the U.S. but 14 rural counties.

State and local leaders, nevertheless, have announced plans to ease virus restrictions in the coming weeks as omicron cases fall, citing the protections offered by vaccines as well as the increased availability of at-home testing kits and therapeutics for those who do catch the virus.

Many of the restrictions eased last year, only to be reinstated as omicron swept the country.

Earlier this week, New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware announced plans to lift statewide mask-requirements in schools.

On Wednesday, state officials said Massachusetts will follow suit starting Feb. 28.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Wednesday that the state will end a COVID-19 mandate requiring face coverings in most indoor public settings, but will keep masking rules in place in schools.

"Given the declining cases, given the declining hospitalizations, that is why we feel comfortable to lift this, in effect tomorrow," Hochul said.

The state will still require masks in many places, including in health care facilities as well as schools.

Hochul has said she would like to see vaccination rates for children improve before she does away with the schools mandate, which has been in place since August.

The mandate requiring face coverings in indoor places like grocery stores, shops and offices was put in place Dec. 10 as the omicron variant of the virus began infecting huge numbers of New Yorkers.

It was set to expire Thursday unless the Democrat's administration extended it.

While the Biden administration has pushed back against efforts by GOP governors to prohibit mask-wearing requirements, it is indicating that it will take a more flexible approach to jurisdictions that make their own choices.

Hartford Courant

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PLAY 4 NIGHT

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CASH 5

4 11 16 18 30

LUCKY FOR LIFE

3 10 14 16 29 LB: 6

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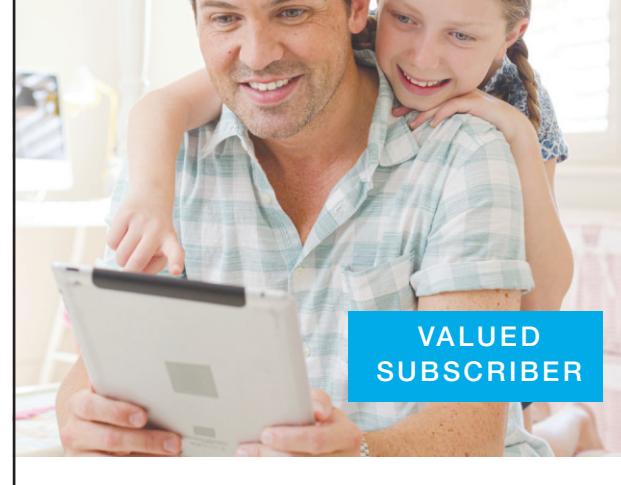
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1 17 20 52 54 MB: 2 MP: 3

Friday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1 million

Friday's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$42 million

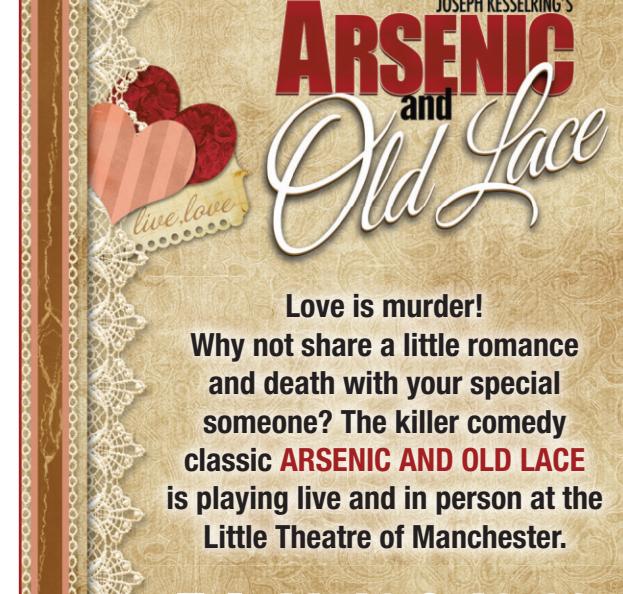


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FROM PAGE ONE

Ousted OPM deputy accuses officials of mistreating boss

By Dave Altomari
CT Mirror

Konstantinos Diamantis, the former deputy secretary of the Office of Policy and Management now at the center of a federal investigation, has filed a grievance naming Joshua Geballe and Paul Mounds, two of Gov. Ned Lamont's top lieutenants, and alleging mistreatment of his boss Melissa McCaw, among other complaints.

Diamantis was fired from his OPM position at the end of October after administration officials learned that his daughter, Anastasia, had gotten a job with Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo's office while Colangelo was pressing Diamantis to help secure raises for his staff. Colangelo announced on Wednesday that he will resign, saying his last day will be March 31.

Federal authorities are now investigating the state-financed reconstruction of the State Pier in New London along with school construction grants overseen by Diamantis in his dual role as director of the Office of School Construction Grants and Review, a classified job with civil service protections.

"This is an action to seek some measure of justice for an outstanding public servant who had the courage to refuse to turn his head the other way and keep silent," attorney Zachary E. Reilands wrote in a 24-page grievance initially filed Nov. 28 on behalf of Diamantis and appealed Jan. 19 to the State Employee Review Board.

Both the grievance and the documents filed to support it are sealed, but the CT Mirror has obtained a copy of the complaint.

"[Diamantis] paid for speaking out against racial and gender injustice and cronyism by becoming the subject of Chief Operating Officer and Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Joshua Geballe's and Chief of Staff Paul Mounds' ire," Reilands wrote, referring to allegations by Diamantis that OPM Secretary McCaw, who is Black, was treated disrespectfully by Geballe and Mounds.

The allegations in the grievance expand on comments Diamantis made in an emotional telephone interview with CT Mirror on the evening of Oct. 28, the day he was removed from his two state jobs.

Diamantis said his removal was the consequence of a long-simmering power struggle between top Lamont aides and the Office of Policy and Management.

Request to rescind retirement was denied: The same day Diamantis was removed from the politically appointed OPM position, he was suspended with pay from his civil-service job overseeing school construction grants. Rather than accept the suspension, Diamantis retired.

But within hours of doing so, he tried to rescind his retirement. Geballe denied his request, according to the grievance, saying that Diamantis hadn't resigned in "good standing."

The grievance also states that Geballe refused to rescind the retirement because of Diamantis' "unprofessional conduct" specifically citing two "inappropriate text messages" Diamantis sent on the evening of Oct. 28.

The first, to Mounds, read, "I'm coming / The truth is coming / Liars will come forward / Racists too."

Minutes later, he sent a text to Geballe that read: "I hate liars and racists."

In response to questions from the Mirror the Lamont administration released the following statement Tuesday afternoon.

"As a result of a preliminary review into the hiring of Mr. Diamantis' daughter by the Division of Criminal Justice, the Office of the Governor determined that Mr. Diamantis should be removed from his appointed posi-



Melissa McCaw, secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, was the victim of mistreatment, according to a grievance report filed by her former employee, Konstantinos Diamantis. COURANTFILE

tion as OPM Deputy Secretary and placed on paid administrative leave from his classified position of Construction Services Director of Project Management for the Office of School Construction Grants and Review pending the results of further investigation. Rather than meet with representatives of the Governor's Office to discuss the matter, Mr. Diamantis chose to resign and retire from state service. In light of the preliminary review by the Governor's Office and the resignation by Mr. Diamantis, the Governor directed OPM and DAS to end the MOU in place and move the authority of the Office of School Construction Grants and Review back to the DAS. Mr. Diamantis subsequently asked to rescind his resignation and DAS denied the request. In response to that decision, he filed a grievance. DAS and OPM denied the grievance and the matter is now before the Employee's Review Board.

"The State denies all allegations in the grievance and will vigorously defend its actions. Because the matter is pending, and the filings remain confidential, we will have no further comment at this time."

Attorney Norm Pattis, who is representing Diamantis, declined to comment Tuesday. OPM spokesman Chris McClure did not respond to requests for comment from McCaw.

Subjected her to 'humiliation': Diamantis' grievance is pending before the state Employee Review Board. The board's chairman, Dennis C. Murphy, refused to comment when contacted by CT Mirror.

The board is part of DAS. In response to questions about the Diamantis grievance last Friday, DAS spokesman John McKay said, "Under legal advisement, we cannot comment on grievances."

Documents show Diamantis' grievance has already been denied in two other closed sessions, before a DAS human resources officer and an arbitrator. The Employment Review Board is his last outlet under his state contract.

The grievance before the board was filed on Jan. 19; Diamantis asked that it be kept confidential.

In his grievance, Diamantis alleges that Geballe and Mounds held a grudge against him for speaking out about the way they and other commissioners treated McCaw. (Geballe's mother, Shelley Geballe, a lawyer and professor of public health at Yale, is a founding board member of the nonprofit Connecticut News Project Inc., operator of CTMirror.org.)

"Geballe was openly disrespectful to her as a result and subjected the first black and female Secretary of OPM to humiliation," the grievance states.

Geballe's treatment of McCaw led to "disrespect of the Secretary by other agency heads as the COO was leading by example. The OPM staff was very much aware that the COO's efforts, unobstructed by the COS Mounds, was to emasculate OPM as the policy and management arm of the administration."

Minutes later, he sent a text to Geballe that read: "I hate liars and racists."

In response to questions from the Mirror the Lamont administration released the following statement Tuesday afternoon.

"As a result of a preliminary review into the hiring of Mr. Diamantis' daughter by the Division of Criminal Justice, the Office of the Governor determined that Mr. Diamantis should be removed from his appointed posi-

Diamantis describes secretly listening, at McCaw's request, to Zoom meetings with other commissioners and state officials so he could "witness the treatment she was receiving."

"The Complainant's attendance in these meetings was not known to Geballe, and the Complainant personally witnessed Geballe's openly hostile, condescending, and abusive treatment of the Secretary," the grievance states.

The grievance describes another Zoom meeting among state commissioners where McCaw addressed an unnamed commissioner's "abusive and disrespectful behavior toward the Secretary" and charged it "was rooted in racial discrimination/animus."

"The secretary respectfully expressed her discomfort with the treatment and requested that greater attention be given toward tone and professionalism in order to avoid making fellow employees uncomfortable," the grievance states.

The document also describes an appearance that McCaw and Diamantis made before state legislators to discuss the budget, during which both were publicly berated by two unnamed legislators. Diamantis said he took aside one of the legislators he had known for years to admonish him for his treatment of McCaw.

Former DPH Commissioner Renee Coleman-Mitchell, who was fired in the middle of the pandemic in 2020, appeared on two radio programs in recent days talking about discord within the Lamont administration and suggested on WITIC-AM that it is "probably pervasive."

In an interview on WRDC-AM on Friday, she spoke of "discriminatory bias" in the administration.

"There are a good number of, specifically, Blacks in [Lamont's] administration ... It doesn't mean just because you have the numbers to reflect a certain population that there isn't ill treatment."

She said Diamantis "made a clean statement on his way out, when he retired, saying he had never seen anyone treated in the manner in which his OPM secretary was treated by Joshua Geballe and Paul Mounds. But just because you have a diverse and high percentage of minority representation does not mean that there isn't poor treatment and hostility."

Coleman-Mitchell made similar complaints about "discriminatory and biased treatment" in August 2020.

Geballe announced on Feb. 1 that he is leaving state government for a position at Yale University. The next day, the Lamont administration revealed that a federal grand jury is investigating the state-financed reconstruction of the State Pier in New London and school construction grants overseen by Diamantis before he was fired.

Credibility questioned: Federal authorities subpoenaed DAS on Oct. 20 seeking records for state contracts for school renovations, hazardous abatement disposal and the new State Pier in New London, along with emails and text messages involving, among others, Anastasia Diamantis and the school construction company where she worked part-time. That company got \$1 million to be the state's on-call company for school projects.

The subpoenas specifically seek all of the elder Diamantis' emails and text messages surrounding those projects.

News of the federal investigation came on the same day the governor's office released a report on an ethics investigation into Colangelo's hiring of Anastasia while Colangelo lobbied her father for help in securing raises.

Stanley A. Twardy Jr., a partner in the Day Pitney law firm and former U.S. attorney, was commissioned by the governor's office to

examine whether Colangelo's hiring of Anastasia violated state ethics rules. Neither his inquiry nor his report dealt with the construction projects under review by the FBI.

In his report, Twardy questioned the truthfulness of Colangelo, Kosta Diamantis and his daughter, each of whom were interviewed about how Anastasia met Colangelo and learned of the position in his office. Anastasia Diamantis was hired as an executive assistant on June 11, 2020.

"Based on the available evidence, we do not find credible the largely consistent accounts of Mr. Colangelo, Anastasia, and Mr. Diamantis concerning how Mr. Colangelo and Anastasia first met. Our conclusion that those individuals lack credibility concerning the straightforward question of how Mr. Colangelo and Anastasia first met casts doubt on the integrity of the circumstances surrounding Anastasia's hiring with the Division," Twardy wrote.

Improper quid pro quo: The documents also go into detail about Diamantis' last day as a state employee – Oct. 28, 2021.

Diamantis said he was at the UConn Health Center with his gravely ill mother when McCaw called and asked him to come to her office. When he arrived, McCaw informed him that he was immediately terminated from his appointed position as OPM's deputy secretary and that he was being placed on paid administrative leave from his classified position as director of the Office of School Construction Grants pending an internal investigation.

Diamantis had held the dual positions for nearly two years.

McCaw told him that the misconduct investigation pertained to his daughter's hiring as an executive assistant to the chief state's attorney and that it was an "improper quid pro quo" arrangement, in which the chief state's attorney would receive approval of a beneficial salary action by OPM and his daughter would receive the executive assistant position.

Diamantis claims the combination of his mother's illness, the accusations made against him and his potential termination left him distraught and emotionally compromised.

An hour later, he met with OPM's human resources officer to discuss which retirement benefits and possible payouts he would be owed depending on whether he retired or was fired.

At the same time Diamantis was reviewing his retirement papers, he received a letter from Lamont informing him he was relieved of his appointment at OPM. Diamantis then signed a letter of resignation and his retirement papers, according to the complaint.

The grievance said the decision to resign "cannot be separated from the surrounding circumstances. He was distraught, confused and overwhelmed by the fact that his 25 years of public service had inexplicably unraveled in less than two hours."

Three hours later, Diamantis asked OPM's human resource director if he could rescind his resignation and submitted a letter to OPM officials asking to do so.

The next day, OPM officials asked Diamantis to come to headquarters and sign more documents, even though he was trying to rescind his resignation, the grievance states.

But that same day, Geballe denied his request to rescind his resignation, claiming that under state statutes Diamantis was not an "employee in good standing" and therefore wouldn't be rehired. Geballe also cited Diamantis' "unprofessional behavior" from the day before in sending the inappropriate texts to Mounds and himself.

The grievance also claims that Geballe did not have the authority to reject the request to have his resignation rescinded because McCaw was his direct boss.

Colangelo

from Page 1

Ned Lamont late last year to investigate that decision – released a report questioning Colangelo's credibility.

"I want to indicate that after reading the Twardy report, that I found the conduct of the chief state's attorney to be extremely disappointing and disturbing," commission member Scott Murphy, the former state's attorney for the New Britain judicial district, said during the meeting. "I am pleased that he has chosen to retire. It is the right thing for the Division of Criminal Justice."

Murphy added that he was "confident" that if Colangelo had not chosen to retire, the commission would have begun proceedings to terminate him.

"While the governor does not have any appointing authority over the position of the chief state's attorney, he believes Mr. Colangelo's actions today are the right thing to do," a spokesperson for Lamont said Wednesday.

In his resignation letter, Colangelo said that he did not plan to address the Twardy report, "save to say that I vehemently disagree with many of its conclusions."

"I care too much about the Division to have the imbroglio over my efforts to ensure the

very best are attracted to supervisory position to detract from the important work of the Division," he wrote.

In the wake of Colangelo's resignation, Claudine Fox, the public policy and advocacy director of the ACLU of Connecticut, urged state legislators to "create real ethics and accountability mechanisms for State's Attorneys, to prevent similar and worse misconduct from the most powerful prosecutors in the state."

Fox recommended the creation of legislation that would expand oversight over state's attorneys, including by developing data-based performance evaluations and empowering the Criminal Justice Commission to discipline the chief state's attorney.

The mounting controversy surrounding Colangelo was complicated by the fact that the process to remove a chief state's attorney is lengthy, relying on an esoteric series of regulations that have never been used in Connecticut. The power to remove a chief state's attorney rests with the Criminal Justice Commission, which would serve as a judge and jury in a proceeding resembling an impeachment trial.

Lamont told reporters last week that he would fire Colangelo if he could, saying, "I have zero tolerance for this type of ethical malfeasance."

The Twardy report investigated "ethical or other improprieties" regarding the hiring of Anastasia Diamantis – the daughter of former deputy budget director Konstantinos Diamantis – as executive assistant to the Chief State's Attorney in the summer of 2020.

A column last year in the Hartford Courant first drew attention to the hiring of the younger Diamantis, who was given a starting salary of about \$99,000 – more than most state prosecutors earn. Not long before she was hired, Colangelo had been pressuring the elder Diamantis for raises for himself and senior prosecutors, arguing that salary scales for prosecutors were imbalanced, and that the disparities were hurting recruitment efforts.

When Anastasia Diamantis applied for the executive assistant position at the Division of Criminal Justice, she had been working for about five years at the Department of Rehabilitation Services, and also had a part-time job at a construction management company, Construction Advocacy Partners. That company was involved in representing municipalities that used grant money distributed by the state Office of School Construction Grants and Review, which her father directed, to build schools.

Colangelo told the Courant last month that he "never looked at her as a political hire" and that her part-time job "didn't raise any red

flags for me."

As chief state's attorney, Colangelo was tasked with overseeing Connecticut's 13 State's Attorneys and effectively oversaw the administration of Connecticut's criminal justice policies.

Colangelo was appointed chief state's attorney in January 2020, following the retirement of Kevin Kane, a well-respected career prosecutor. In 2021, Colangelo was reappointed for a five-year term.

During the reappointment process last year, Criminal Justice Commission members raised concerns about tensions between Colangelo and Deputy Chief State's Attorney Kevin D. Lawlor, who had also been a candidate for the top job. At the time, Colangelo reassured the commission that though there had been "challenges," they had "worked through them."

Prior to becoming chief state's attorney, Colangelo was the state's attorney for the Stamford/Norwalk judicial district. He had been hired as an assistant prosecutor for the district in 1993 and became its top prosecutor in 2015, overseeing prosecutors in three courts and serving as the chief state law enforcement officer in eight Fairfield County municipalities.

Courant staff writer Edmund H. Mahony contributed to this report.

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Trudeau: Virus rules work, needed

But some provinces roll back restrictions amid truck protests

By Rob Gillies

Associated Press

TORONTO — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stood firm against an easing of the country's COVID-19 restrictions Wednesday in the face of mounting pressure from protesters using trucks to blockade the capital and U.S. border crossings, including the economically vital bridge to Detroit.

A growing number of Canadian provinces have moved to lift some of their precautions as the omicron surge levels off, but Trudeau defended the measures the federal government is responsible for, including the one that has angered many truck drivers: a rule that took effect Jan. 15 requiring trucks entering Canada to be fully vaccinated.

"The reality is that vaccine mandates, and the fact that Canadians stepped up to get vaccinated to almost 90%, ensured that this pandemic didn't hit as hard here in Canada as elsewhere in the world," Trudeau said in Parliament in Ottawa.

A blockade by people mostly in pickup trucks entered its third day at the Ambassador Bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. Traffic was prevented from entering Canada, while some U.S.-bound traffic was moving.

As Canadians' impatience and frustration with the occupation of their national capital intensifies, the protests continued to echo globally Wednesday, this time in France, where



Trucks block a street Wednesday in downtown Ottawa as part of a protest against COVID-19 mandates. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY

dozens of trucks and vehicles left southern France for Paris to vent their anger over their country's vaccination policies.

The demonstrations in Canada have inspired copycat convoys in Australia and New Zealand. And there are talks of another in the works in the United States.

Far-right and anti-vaccine groups around the world have amplified the message of the Canadian protesters on social media, raising millions of dollars in online campaigns.

The "freedom truck convoy" has been promoted by Fox News personalities and attracted support from many U.S. Republicans,

including former President Donald Trump, who called Trudeau a "far left lunatic" who has "destroyed Canada with insane Covid mandates."

The main Facebook group for the French demonstrators has attracted more than 300,000 followers in just a few days.

In Ottawa, life continued to be disrupted by the presence of more than 400 trucks blocking roads. Residents got some relief Tuesday night when the drivers of the trucks for the second night refrained from blasting their air horns, a form of protest that was enjoined by a court order Monday afternoon.

While protesters have been calling for Trudeau's removal, most of the restrictive measures around the country have been put in place by provincial governments. Those include requirements that people show proof-of-vaccination "passports" to enter restaurants, gyms, movie theaters and sporting events.

Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Prince Edward Island announced plans this week to roll back some or all of their precautions, with Alberta, Canada's most conservative province, dropping its vaccine passport immediately and getting rid of masks at the end of the month.

Alberta opposition leader Rachel Notley accused Alberta Premier Jason Kenney of allowing an "illegal blockade to dictate public health measures."

Despite Alberta's plans to scrap the public health measures, the protest there continued.

"We've got guys here — they've lost everything due to these mandates and they're not giving up, and they're willing to stand their ground and keep going until this is done," said protester John Vanreeuwijk, a feedlot operator from Coaldale, Alberta.

He added: "Until Trudeau moves, we don't move."

As for the Ambassador

bridge blockade, Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens said police had not removed people for fear of inflaming the situation and causing a larger protest. But he added: "We're not going to let this happen for a prolonged period of time."

Police said the demonstration involved 50 to 74 vehicles and about 100 protesters. Some of the protesters say they are willing to die for their cause, according to the mayor.

"I'll be brutally honest: You are trying to have a rational conversation, and not everyone on the ground is a rational actor," Dilkens said. "Police are doing what is right by taking a moderate approach, trying to sensibly work through this situation where everyone can walk away, nobody gets hurt, and the bridge can open."

Pandemic restrictions have been far stricter in Canada than in the U.S., but Canadians have largely supported them. Canada's COVID-19 death rate is one-third that of the U.S.

About 90% of truckers in Canada are vaccinated, and trucker associations and many big-rig operators have denounced the protests. The U.S. has the same vaccination rule for truckers entering the country, so it would make little difference if Trudeau lifted the restriction.

Ontario, Canada's largest province with almost 40% of the country's population, is keeping what it calls a "very cautious" stance toward the pandemic, and the deputy premier said it has no plans to drop vaccine passports or mask requirements.

*The New York Times
contributed.*

Pelosi favors stock ban on lawmakers, judiciary

House speaker says the Supreme Court 'has no disclosure'

By Jonathan Weisman
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday said she would accept a ban on the ownership and trading of individual stocks by members of Congress, a potentially important turnaround after her initial opposition helped fuel support among politically vulnerable Democrats looking for ways to distance themselves from their leaders.

But in a complicating twist, she said she wanted any stock-trading limitations, including existing disclosure rules on stock ownership and trading that now apply to members of Congress and the executive branch, to also apply to the judicial branch of government, especially the Supreme Court.

"It has to be governmentwide," Pelosi, D-Calif., told reporters at her weekly news conference, adding, "the judiciary has no reporting. The Supreme Court has no disclosure. It has no reporting of stock transactions, and it makes import-

ant decisions every day."

Multiple proposals for a trading ban already exist in the House and Senate, including a new bill unveiled this week by Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Steve Daines, R-Mont. The drive was touched off by a spate of revelations in 2020 that senators from both parties had traded health care stocks after closed-door briefings on the then-nascent coronavirus pandemic.

It has gathered momentum in recent weeks as Democrats from conservative-leaning districts, eager to demonstrate independence from Pelosi and other party leaders, have taken up the issue as a way of appealing to a growing populist sentiment among their constituents.

They saw the power of the issue in the 2020 elections, when it propelled the victories of two Georgia Democrats, Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, who castigated their incumbent Republican rivals for their stock trades.

Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the majority leader, took to the Senate floor on Wednesday to push Democrats to reach out to Republicans and find agreement on a single stock-trading bill that could pass

overwhelmingly.

"I believe this is an important issue that Congress should address, and it is something that has clearly raised interest on both sides of the aisle over the last few weeks," Schumer said.

But Pelosi's embrace was hardly unequivocal.

She said she had tasked the House Administration Committee, which has jurisdiction over the chamber's operations, to produce new stock-trading legislation. She said she assumed "they will have it pretty soon."

She also called for stricter penalties on lawmakers who flout existing rules on reporting stock ownership and trading under a 2012 law called the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act.

"What we're trying to build is consensus," she said.

Striking such an agreement could prove tricky. Existing bills differ on whether spouses and family members should also be prohibited from owning and trading individual stocks, whether capital gains taxes on forced stock sales should be deferred, and whether the prohibition should apply to other assets like businesses.

And some Democratic



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that any stock-trading limitations need to be extended to the judicial branch of the government. ELIZABETH FRANTZ/FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

leaders have raised questions about a slippery slope.

Insider trading is already illegal, and the STOCK Act bars members of Congress from trading on any "nonpublic information derived from" their position. That law also mandates disclosure of most stock trades, although Pelosi noted that it had not been an effective deterrent.

If Congress is going to go further and bar individual stock ownership outright, critics argue, then what about real estate holdings?

Should a lawmaker with

student loans be allowed to weigh in on legislation on loan forgiveness?

But for proponents of a stock ownership ban in both parties, the imperative is "pretty simple," as Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, put it.

"The idea that we're coming in and buying, selling, buying, calling in puts, it's a bipartisan problem," said Roy, who co-wrote legislation in 2020 with Rep. Abigail Spanberger, D-Va., that went nowhere.

The sophisticated and lucrative trades of Pelosi's wealthy husband, Paul

Pelosi, have also attracted attention, especially from Republicans.

Spanberger conceded that some of her colleagues have suggested that a ban on stock ownership could dissuade capable people from running for Congress. But she expressed little sympathy.

"There are a lot of jobs and millions of Americans out there," she said. "If this is too much of a limitation, you've just demonstrated what your priorities are, and you shouldn't be in Congress."

Apollo 16 gets spruced up for 50th anniversary

By Jay Reeves

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The Apollo 16 capsule is dusty all these decades after it carried three astronauts to the moon. Cobwebs cling to the spacecraft. Business cards, a pencil, money, a spoon and even a tube of lip balm litter the floor of the giant case that protects the space antique.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant a break in the normal routine of cleaning the ship's

display at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, located near NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. But workers are sprucing up the spacecraft for the 50th anniversary of its April 1972 flight.

Using microfiber towels, extension poles, brushes, dust-catching wands and vacuums, a crew recently cleaned the 6.5-ton, nearly 11-foot-tall capsule and wiped down its glass enclosure, located beneath a massive Saturn V rocket suspended from the ceiling.

They removed dozens of items that people had stuck through cracks in the case.

Aside from overseeing the cleaning, consulting curator Ed Stewart taught museum staff how to maintain the capsule, which is on loan from the Smithsonian Institution and has been displayed in the "rocket city" of Huntsville since the 1970s.

Stewart said the command module was in "pretty good shape" considering its age and since it was

last cleaned about three years ago.

"I'm pleased to see that there's not heavy layers of dust. I've not seen a lot of insect debris or anything like that, so I take that as a very positive sign," he said.

Perched atop columns, the capsule — nicknamed "Casper" — is tilted so visitors can look inside and see controls and the metal-framed seats where astronauts Ken Mattingly, John Young and Charlie Duke rode to the moon and back.



The Apollo 16 lunar capsule in encased in glass at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. JAY REEVES/AP

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NEWS BRIEFING

Colo. mom who fatally abused daughter, 7, is sentenced to 16 years

From news services

DENVER — A Colorado mother who fatally abused her 7-year-old daughter and lied about her health to get handouts from charities worth at least \$100,000 was sentenced Wednesday to 16 years in prison.

Judge Patricia Herron issued the sentence to Kelly Turner after she pleaded guilty last month to child abuse resulting in the 2017 death of the girl, Olivia, and to charitable fraud and theft.

Turner said nothing during her virtual sentencing hearing but wiped away tears as prosecutors played a video made by Olivia's grandfather, Lonnie Gautreau, of Olivia laughing and smiling, baking a cake, dancing in a princess costume, playing doctor with her dolls and singing songs.

Authorities have said Turner lied to doctors about Olivia's medical history while broadcasting her struggles to receive money and other favors from organizations like the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The girl had received unnecessary surgeries and medications up until her death in Denver hospice care in 2017.

That summer, Olivia Gant cheerfully sang Hakuna Matata from "The Lion King" as she was wheeled into hospice care in Denver wearing purple pajamas. "It means no worries for the rest of your days," she sang. The girl died less than a month later.

The video put out by Turner was one of many clips highlighting the little girl's battle with disease and death, which authorities said was used by her mother to dupe doctors and call for favors and donations.

The girl's cause of death was first listed as intestinal failure, but an autopsy later

found no evidence of that condition. Authorities have not said what killed her.

The amount of the theft from charity was between \$100,000 and \$1 million, according to prosecutors.

Psychiatrists have said that Turner's behavior seems consistent with Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a psychological disorder in which parents or caregivers seek attention from the illness of their children or dependents and sometimes cause them injuries.

Mich. kidnapping plot: Prosecutors recorded a second conviction Wednesday in an alleged plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Kaleb Franks pleaded guilty to conspiracy. He said he agreed to participate in the scheme to abduct the Democratic lawmaker, who was targeted because of her restrictive policies during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FBI had infiltrated the group of six men and broke up the plan with a series of arrests in October 2020.

With his plea, Franks joined co-defendant Ty Garbin in admitting guilt and agreeing to help prosecutors at a March 8 trial.

Franks faces a prison term, but his cooperation could lead to a lighter sentence.

Syrian camp violence: At a

detention camp in northeastern Syria where tens of thousands of family members of

Islamic State fighters have

been held for years, guards

opened fire at residents

after women and children

attacked them with rocks

and knives, according to a

top security commander for

the region.

One child was killed and

several women and children

were wounded Monday in

the shooting, according to

Wednesday



Ready to roll: Soldiers of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment line up vehicles Wednesday at the military airfield in Vilseck, Germany. The United States started to move the regiment's Stryker squadron to Romania, which borders Ukraine. Col. Joe Ewers, commander of the 2nd Cavalry, said the troops will bolster 900 service members already in Romania. MICHAEL PROBST/AP

the commander, Newroz Ahmed. It was the first time that guards in the sprawling Al Hol camp had opened fire on children. The camp has been under heightened alert since an Islamic State group attack on a prison in the northeastern Syrian city of Hassakeh on Jan. 20.

Officials from the SDF, which is backed by the United States, have said that the IS plan was to free prisoners, then to move on to take control of Al Hol camp and other areas. It took the SDF almost two weeks to retake full control of the prison.

In Monday's violence at Al Hol, Ahmed said security guards opened fire in a part of the camp that houses foreigners after a group of women and children attacked them with rocks and knives in an attempt to seize their guns.

The parliament vote took place amid fears that Russia will invade Ukraine.

Slovakia borders Ukraine to the east.

Navarro subpoenaed: The House committee investigating the U.S. Capitol insurrection subpoenaed former White House trade adviser Peter Navarro on Wednesday, seeking to question an ally

of former President Donald Trump who promoted false claims of voter fraud in the 2020 election.

The committee is demanding information and testimony from Navarro, who they say was involved in efforts to delay Congress' certification of the 2020 election and ultimately change the election results, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee's Democratic chairman, said in a statement.

In a statement, Navarro, 72, called the committee a "partisan witch hunt" and reiterated his claim of executive privilege.

The nine-member panel said it has obtained information that indicates Navarro worked with longtime Trump ally Steve Bannon and others to develop and implement a plan to delay the certification of Joe Biden's electoral win.

Border Patrol tensions: A strained Border Patrol is

getting increased attention from the Biden administration after tense meetings between senior officials and the rank and file while the agency deals with one of the largest spikes in migration along the U.S.-Mexico border in decades.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who oversees the Border Patrol, laid out 19 ways to address working conditions, said Chris Magnus, the new commissioner of Customs and Border Protection.

Mayorkas also pledged to push for more prosecutions of people accused of assaulting CBP personnel in the course of their duties, an issue raised at a recent meeting in Laredo, Texas, and elsewhere, Magnus said Tuesday.

Efforts to deal with working conditions for agents come as President Joe Biden's administration has been roundly criticized over immigration.

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Resistance by committee in Sudan

Seeking democracy, hundreds of groups stand up to generals

By Abdi Latif Dahir

The New York Times

KHARTOUM, Sudan — In a bare, dusty field in a neighborhood north of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, about a hundred people — gray-haired men in white robes and turbans, young women in jeans and T-shirts, mothers with their children — gathered on a recent evening to discuss what they see as their nation's most pressing need: democracy.

For more than six hours, they debated how to dislodge the military from its grip on power, cemented on Oct. 25 when a military coup suddenly put an end to Sudan's 2-year-old transition to democratic rule.

Across this vast nation of more than 43 million in northeast Africa, hundreds of similar groups, known as resistance committees, are convening regularly.

They are committed to nonviolence, though they have paid a high price. On a makeshift stage in the dusty field, in the Kafouri neighborhood, 16 photographs were on display — one woman and 15 men, "martyrs" from the neighborhood. They are among 79 people who have been killed in the protests since Oct. 25, according to a doctors' group.

"People have been killed, injured and detained so that we stop organizing and protesting," said Reem Sinada, 34, a veterinary medicine lecturer at the University of Khartoum, one of the local organizers. "But we won't."

The neighborhood resistance committees are led mostly by young organizers, and they make a point of meeting in the open — in tea shops and under trees — rejecting the closed-room negotiations and top-down,



A demonstration in front of the home of a protester killed in Khartoum, Sudan. FAIZ ABUBAKAR MUHAMED/THE NEW YORK TIMES

male-centered leadership that have defined Sudanese politics for decades.

The movement does not have a single leader, relying instead on a decentralized structure in which individuals and communities organize their own events. They announce protest dates and demands on social media, in pamphlets and through graffiti and murals scrawled on walls. A media committee shares plans through a unified Twitter handle, but individual committees also manage their own social media accounts.

"The military wish they were dealing with a few political parties and elites, and not this large network of people all over the country," said Muzan Alneel, a nonresident fellow at the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy in Washington.

The Sovereignty Council, Sudan's ruling body, led by Lt. Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, did not respond to multiple

interview requests.

The standoff between the people and the generals has largely unfolded in the streets. The resistance committees have organized at least 16 major demonstrations since the military takeover, and plan to hold four more this month.

On a recent afternoon in Khartoum, protesters thronged bus stations, parks and squares before marching toward the presidential palace. Retail businesses and banks had closed at noon. And demonstrators, waving the Sudanese flag, blocked roads, beat drums and waved banners with anti-coup slogans.

Their chants echoed the graffiti on the walls: "Our revolution is peaceful," and "Even a tank cannot stop the breaking dawn."

But security forces blocked roads and lobbed tear gas to stop the demonstrators from reaching the palace on Al Qasr Avenue.

As some protesters coughed and retreated, a young man in blue swimming goggles screamed out to them, "Retreat is impossible!"

More than 2,000 people have been injured during these protests, according to the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors. Of those who were killed, the majority were shot in the head, chest and neck, the group said. Security forces have also raided hospitals, intimidated health care workers and arrested patients, according to interviews with doctors and eyewitnesses.

Sudan erupted in celebration three years ago after popular protests ousted the country's longtime ruler, Omar al-Bashir. Then a civilian-military power-sharing deal ushered in hopes for a peaceful transition from dictatorship to democratic governance.

But those yearnings were cut short at dawn on Oct. 25, when the military seized power and detained the civilian prime minister, Abdalla Hamdok — holding him at the home of the country's military chief, Burhan. A month later, Hamdok cut a deal with the military that was widely rejected by people on the streets, and he resigned in early January.

With billions of dollars in foreign aid suspended after the coup, rising fuel and food prices and increasing violence in the restive Darfur region, Hamdok's departure scrapped hopes that one of Africa's largest countries would quickly emerge from decades of repression, international isolation and American sanctions.

The committees have grown to become a loosely networked, grassroots movement, transcending class, age and ethnicity and spreading in both rural and urban areas.

They surfaced in 2013, said Alneel at the Tahrir Institute, with students and opposition activists mobilizing

to protest rising gas prices. Then in 2018, after the popular uprising against Bashir, the Sudanese Professionals Association, a pro-democracy coalition of trade unions, helped raise their profile through a public call in order to spread the demonstrations nationwide.

Catering to the needs of their neighborhoods, they provided cleanups and garbage collection, tutored students and organized health checkups. They grew politically vocal: demanding justice for those killed during the anti-Bashir uprising, challenging the transitional civilian government on its new economic policies and holding mass rallies against the military days before they carried out the coup.

In the months since the Oct. 25 coup, they have rejected any compromise with the military establishment that has dominated Sudan for most of its independent history, and insisted on civilian rule. Resistance committees have also been blocking the road north to Egypt for several weeks over rising electricity prices.

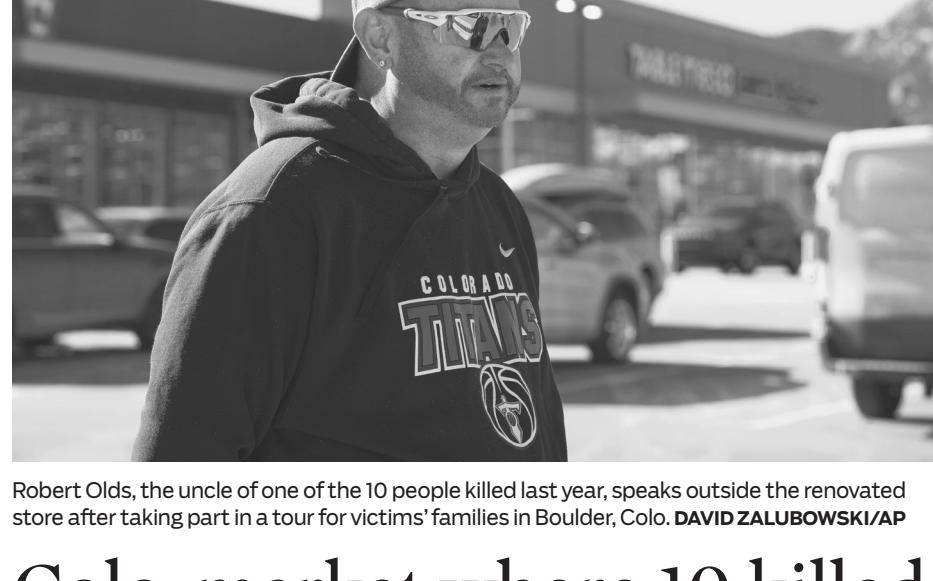
As their numbers and influence grow, observers say, the resistance committees face numerous challenges. For example, political parties or the security forces could co-opt them.

Women in the movement report discrimination, too.

Sara Mouawia, 23, from Omdurman, said some men thought she was less knowledgeable about revolutionary politics or Sudan's history, even though she grew up actively discussing such things.

In one protest in December, she said, several young men beat her for being on the front lines as they faced security forces.

Mouawia was hit in the forehead by a tear-gas canister during the protests on Jan. 30, but she insisted that "nothing the men do will stop me from marching to the palace."



Robert Olds, the uncle of one of the 10 people killed last year, speaks outside the renovated store after taking part in a tour for victims' families in Boulder, Colo. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Colo. market where 10 killed reopens to mixed emotions

By Colleen Slevin

Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Hours before a gunman opened fire at a Colorado supermarket, Teri Leiker called her mother to tell her how excited she was to return from vacation to her job as a front-end bagger where she loved her customers and her colleagues.

She never came back home.

About 30 minutes before she was set to finish her shift on March 22, 2021, Leiker was shot and killed along with nine other people inside and outside the store.

Nearly a year later, the redesigned King Soopers in the college town of Boulder reopened Wednesday, a move that triggered mixed emotions for families of the victims as well as the community.

For Leiker's mother, Margie Whittington, the reopening of the store, which bears the name of the neighborhood emblazoned on the front, is a way of showing that evil does not triumph.

"When they see 'Table

Mesa' they'll know that this store did not get torn down and the shooter didn't prevail," said Whittington, who said her daughter's former co-workers and customers have reached out to comfort her.

Leiker, who lived independently despite having cognitive disabilities, worked at the store for 32 years.

But the uncle of Rikki Olds, a front-end manager who was also killed at the store, thinks it may have been better to tear the store down, getting rid of the place where so much tragedy happened.

"What happened is still there," Robert Olds said of the shooting.

Robert Olds hopes the newly designed store has better security than at the time of the shooting, including some of the measures he is responsible for as a school security supervisor.

He would also like to see supermarkets install panic buttons that alert police to a shooting and automatically lock store doors, like schools have, and to also monitor their security cameras for signs of trouble, including outside the store.

Authorities say the gunman opened fire in the parking lot before going inside.

He wasn't impressed after touring the new store this week, saying "it was the same place it was."

The court case against the alleged gunman, Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa, 22, has been on hold since December, when a judge ruled that Alissa was mentally incompetent to stand trial and ordered him to be treated at the state mental hospital to see if he can be made well enough to go to trial.

A spokesperson for King Soopers, Jessica Trowbridge, said a survey conducted by the company found that the store's workers and customers overwhelmingly wanted the store to reopen and the company heeded changes they asked for, including a lighter, brighter appearance, created with a raised ceiling and a nearly all glass entry way with views of the nearby Flatirons, the city's iconic rock formations.

"This is their community and they wanted to return to their community and their store," Trowbridge said.

Chief: US Capitol Police not spying on House Republicans

By Michael Balsamo and Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than a year after the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, U.S. Capitol Police officers are facing increasingly heated and baseless allegations from House Republicans that the department's officers are operating as politically driven spies. The rhetoric is complicating the force's effort to win back public confidence.

The latest tumult occurred Tuesday, when Rep. Troy Nehls of Texas accused the Capitol Police of having "illegally" investigated his office in November. Both Nehls and the police agree on basic facts about the incident in question that indicate no laws were broken when an officer entered Nehls' office.

But in a Fox News interview, Nehls alleged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, "is weaponizing the U.S. Capitol Police to investigate me, to try to silence me, intimidate me, and quite honestly, to destroy me."

He provided no evidence for that claim and Pelosi noted Wednesday that she has "no power over the Capitol Police."

While far more attention has been paid to the committee looking back on the insurrection, the U.S. Capitol Police is undergoing a quiet reform process to fix its intelligence and operational failures on Jan. 6. The department is collecting more data and changing its processes for sharing and acting on information about threats.

Some Republicans have attacked both the efforts to look back on the insurrection and the Capitol Police's measures to go forward in preventing a future attack.

"Frankly, I've been a police chief for over 21 years, and I have never allowed politics to influence



U.S. Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger said Tuesday that members of his force are unfairly being dragged in partisan differences. TOM WILLIAMS/POOL PHOTO

my decisions," U.S. Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger said Tuesday. "I feel like the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police are being dragged into partisan differences, and that's unfair to them and it's unfair to this department."

Manger strenuously denied that his officers spied on Nehls, a former sheriff of Fort Bend County in suburban Houston. Promoting that unfounded theory could put his officers at increased risk, Manger said.

A Capitol officer patrolling the halls of the Longworth House Office Building on Nov. 20 noticed the door to Nehls' office was open and entered the office to check for intruders.

The officer found no intrusion, but noticed a whiteboard that had a hand-drawn map of the neighboring Rayburn office building with an "X" marked on it. The whiteboard also had notes about "body armor."

The officer took a photo of the whiteboard and filed a report that notes "suspicious writings mentioning body armor."

Two days later, officers returned to Nehls' office and spoke to his staff about the whiteboard. The case was then closed.

"There was no investi-

gation into any member or staff," Manger said. "I called the congressman the next day and said, 'Here's what happened. At no time were you or your staff under investigation. We were just making sure that nobody had gotten into your office and disturbed anything.'"

Nehls told the AP on Tuesday that a staffer had drawn the map to show an intern where the ice machine could be found in Rayburn. And his office was working on legislation related to obtaining body armor for law enforcement.

Nehls conceded that the officer had the legal right to enter his office to be sure no one was in there who shouldn't have been.

But Nehls said the officer should not have looked at his whiteboard and challenged Manger to release the photo.

"They had no authority to photograph my office, let alone investigate myself or members of my staff," Nehls wrote on Twitter.

The Capitol Police says it does not research individual lawmakers or conduct criminal background checks on attendees, lawmakers, or staff, other than for major events like the State of the Union speech or when a congressional office makes a specific request.

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING DAY

Budget

from Page 1

legislators. "Unlike Washington, we did it together. And that is the Connecticut difference! We did it together. And rather than borrowing from the future, we are investing in the future!"

The latest statistics project that the state will have a budget surplus of \$1.48 billion in the current fiscal year and more than \$1 billion next year. Those totals provide more freedom for Lamont and the legislature to increase spending and provide tax cuts. After public hearings and committee votes, the final decisions on the budget are not expected until near the end of the session in early May.

The proposed \$24.2 billion budget represents a 2.4% spending increase. The expenses would remain \$5.6 million below the annual spending cap — a level established by both Republicans and Democrats in a bipartisan agreement in 2017.

The biggest single factor in helping the budget for the next two years is the huge influx of money from the federal government.

"The president's infrastructure bill, with full backing from our congressional delegation and bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate, will pump more than a billion dollars a year into Connecticut, which means you won't recognize this state five years from now," Lamont said. "Union Station in New Haven will be our central transportation hub. That starts this year with express trains that'll cut your round-trip commute to New York City by about an hour."

He added, "Look, the promise of two-way rail service between Bridgeport and Waterbury is already resulting in hundreds of new apartments from Shelton to Beacon Falls, bringing the Valley back in all of its glory. And don't forget the recently announced major distribution facility with over 1,000 good-paying jobs on the Waterbury-Naugatuck line."

While Lamont and Democrats were optimistic, Republicans said that tax cuts need to come sooner to help cash-strapped residents who



Reflected in social distancing barriers, Gov. Ned Lamont speaks to a joint session of the House and Senate on the first day of the 2022 legislative session.

MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

are still struggling during the coronavirus pandemic. Both House Republican leader Vincent Candelora of North Branford and Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford said Lamont needs to do more on crime, including enacting tougher penalties on young, repeat criminals who have been involved in recent carjackings and other violent crimes.

One of the biggest winners in the budget was the cash-strapped University of Connecticut Health Center, which would receive \$30 million for operating expenses from surplus funds. In addition, the health center would receive an additional \$20 million for its medical malpractice trust fund.

The financial problems at the health center have been a long-running issue with the legislature, dating back at least to 2000. The health center has been bailed out repeatedly as lawmakers

Lamont's budget director, Melissa McCaw, said the state has not embarked on a long-term study of the future of the center, but officials have been watching the finances closely.

"There is no specific plan, but we're keeping the lines of communication open," McCaw said.

Like opening day at Fenway Park or Yankee Stadium, the start of the session represents a time of handshakes, congratulations and multiple standing ovations as lawmakers pledge to work together. For one day, at least, they largely set aside partisan rhetoric in the chambers.

"This session, we must focus on looking ahead, while working in a bipartisan fashion," House majority leader Jason Rojas told his House colleagues. "Let me be honest. We will have many disagreements and partisan debates. Many of you wouldn't have it any other way — and you know who you are."

Rojas noted that the House chamber was largely filled — versus a nearly empty chamber last year

on opening day due to the ongoing pandemic.

"What a difference a year makes," Rojas said.

Legislators began the session with a day of optimism in an election year with growing budget surpluses for the next two years.

The difficult work begins Thursday when the House is expected to vote on lifting the statewide mask mandate in schools. Instead, towns would have the right to set mask policies in their communities, according to Lamont and legislators.

The 2022 session will be one of the shortest in state history — based on the schedule set forth by the state constitution and the vagaries of the calendar. The session's Feb. 9 starting date is the latest in the past 22 years.

During his speech, Lamont also touted his fiscal package.

"We're also going to cut taxes on automobiles so no one is struggling to pay more for a Honda in Hartford than a Hummer in Harwinton," Lamont said.

"That's going to reduce car tax bills in more than 100 towns, often by hundreds of dollars per car!"

He added, "We're also going to eliminate the income tax on pension and 401K income for most households. Stay in Connecticut and watch your grandkids grow up from your living room rather than waving to them from a Zoom room in Delray, Florida."

Lamont's fiscal adjustments in the second year of the two-year budget include a \$64 million gun control and law enforcement package that calls for strengthening gun enforcement, hiring more police, reducing court backlogs, helping crime victims, and tracking guns more efficiently.

The package calls for spending millions of dollars for hiring and training police, along with creating a new gun-tracing task force to stem the steady flow of illegal guns that cross the Connecticut border. Money will also be set aside for a statewide program to buy guns back from owners in order to get them out of

circulation.

The totals include \$23 million for the courts, \$19 million for law enforcement, \$18 million for crime victims, and \$4 million for forensic science investigations, including mobile crime labs.

Regarding crime, Lamont said, "Many of the car thefts and other street crimes are a symptom of a population reeling after two years of COVID-hell. Free summer learning camps and clinics, and in-person schools relieved some of the stress for a lot of kids. But for others, long COVID is playing out in a national trend of fentanyl poisoning as well as vandalism in our schools."

... Many of these kids just need a shoulder to lean on."

Litchfield Republican Rep. David Wilson, who is retiring, said on the House floor Wednesday that legislators deserve a pay raise — agreeing with the remarks by Democratic Rep. Joe de la Cruz of Groton, who announced his retirement in a floor speech.

"We would find much greater, qualified candidates," Wilson said.

Reaction

from Page 1

election year gimmick [is] a tax you can't afford. It's when you send a check to families that you can't afford. We can afford this because the prudent fiscal planning we've done in the last couple of years."

Fueled partly by large amounts of federal funding, the state is projected to have a budget surplus of \$1.48 billion in the current fiscal year and more than \$1 billion next year. The rainy day fund for fiscal emergencies has reached historic levels and has overflowed to the point that money has been sent directly to paying down the state's pension debt.

The package includes increasing the maximum property tax credit to \$300, up from the current \$200, and sharply expanding the eligibility. Currently, only those with dependents or age 65 and over are eligible for the credit. But Lamont's plan calls for restoring eligibility to an additional 500,000 people, making the total 1.1 million for the 2022 calendar year.

Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney of New Haven said he expected broad support for several of the budget's components.

"I think there will be broad-based support for an expansion of the property tax credit, which is the restoration of a credit that we previously had that we had to cut back on during the recession," Looney said.

"I think the car tax is also something there will be support for as well. That's one of the most regressive parts of our tax system. ... Being able to reduce the maximum tax as much as we can, and reimburse municipalities for the difference, would be a significant advantage," Looney said.



State Sen. Kevin Kelly, the Senate Republican leader, speaks with reporters about his reaction to Gov. Ned Lamont's opening day address on Wednesday. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford said that Lamont's tax relief would not bring relief fast enough because most taxpayers would receive the property tax credit for the 2022 calendar year until filing their taxes in April 2023.

By contrast, Senate Republicans have called for cutting the sales tax next week — a move that Democrats have not embraced.

"Connecticut families are struggling now," Kelly said in an interview. "They're having trouble making ends meet, living paycheck to paycheck. What they need is relief now. We have a sales tax cut. That keeps money in taxpayers' pockets, applicable to everyone. That can be done as soon next week. We can do that now. It's easy, it's fast, it's quick, and it can be done today, as people are experiencing a 40-year high in inflation."

Lamont's supporters, though, said his plan to cut automobile taxes on 1.7 million vehicles in 103 towns

would be enacted as soon as July when the fiscal year starts in municipalities. The towns collect the car taxes, but the state would reimburse the municipalities with \$160 million in revenues with that they would lose from the tax cuts.

Lamont's budget also includes \$64 million for a gun and crime package, but Republicans said that further improvements are needed.

"The crime and the death toll is occurring subsequent to the police accountability bill," Kelly said. "As a result, Connecticut has become more dangerous. People do not feel safe and secure. When they go to an ATM, they're thinking that they might ultimately get assaulted. That is not the kind of Connecticut that I remember, nor do people want."

House Republican leader Vincent Candelora of North Branford said Lamont's budget was not good enough.

"I think that this gover-

nor is trying to be the law-and-order governor, and he's really falling short," Candelora said. "To bring up gun reforms that we've already done in the state of Connecticut really doesn't address the problems that residents care about. We need to tackle car theft, recidivism, some of the loopholes that allow juveniles to commit multiple crimes. Those are the issues that people really want addressed, and I think the governor fell really short on covering that area."

Standing outside the House chamber, Bob Stefanowski, a Republican running for governor, dismissed Lamont's speech as political posturing.

"It's great to be optimistic about Connecticut and our future," he said. "I do think there was a lack of empathy on the governor's part, in terms of what people are facing. Highest crime we've seen in decades, affordability, highest energy prices in the continental U.S. People are looking to make their

"I do think there was a lack of empathy on the governor's part, in terms of what people are facing. Highest crime we've seen in decades, affordability, highest energy prices in the continental U.S."

Bob Stefanowski, a Republican running for governor

lives easier. It's great that we have a budget surplus, I get it, but most people in Connecticut are kind of feeling that and that's the message we need to get out there."

Candelora said he was happy to see more investment in mental health programs, a view shared by Geraldo Reyes Jr., D-Waterbury, chair of the Black and Puerto Rican caucus.

Reyes said he wished Lamont focused more on housing in his remarks.

"There's still not enough equitable or affordable homes to begin with," Reyes said, adding that he expects housing concerns to continue well into next year.

Stefanowski, who had been invited by lawmakers to hear Lamont's speech, left the Capitol shortly after being informed that the second floor, which the House is on, is restricted to the public for COVID-19 safety.

House majority leader Jason Rojas of East Hartford says he sees strong support for Lamont's \$24.2 billion spending plan.

"The budget is really in good condition," Rojas said. "I don't know if I could describe it as rosy, but it is as solid as it's ever been."

Progressive lawmakers and labor leaders said Lamont is squandering a chance to make systemic change.

"If we don't make bold investments now, shame on us," said Rep. Anne Hughes, a liberal Democrat from Easton who co-chairs the

legislature's progressive caucus. "If we don't deliver now, we're missing up a policy justice chance of a lifetime."

Hughes, a social worker in a nursing home, highlighted the absence of expanded pandemic hazard pay for all essential workers. Lamont's plan doubled the hazard pay pool for public sector essential workers to \$40 million, and encouraged the private sector to follow.

"We're in the trenches here right now," Hughes said. "The health care shortage ... is a crisis, and I didn't see enough addressing that right now. ... People are leaving the profession in droves."

The Connecticut Working Families Party welcomed Lamont's proposed tax reliefs, but said the budget doesn't go far enough to address inequality and segregation.

In a statement, Connecticut AFL-CIO leaders blasted the budget for missing the mark on support for essential and frontline workers and called for expanded hazard pay,

while health care workers with SEIU 1199NE urged more spending for mental health care.

"Will this be enough to show our appreciation for their sacrifice? Absolutely not," Ed Hawthorne, Connecticut AFL-CIO, wrote in a statement. "But it is far more respectful than ignoring the role essential workers played in caring for our communities and keeping the economy running."

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Cyber gangs branch out into new specialty fields

Report finds hackers even setting up 24/7 help center, arbitration system

By Alan Suderman

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Cyber criminal gangs are getting increasingly adept at hacking and becoming more professional, even setting up an arbitration system to resolve payment disputes among themselves, according to a new report by the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom that paints a bleak picture of ransomware trends.

Ransomware gangs, which hack targets and hold their data hostage through encryption, caused widespread havoc last year with high-profile attacks on the world's largest meat-packing company, the biggest U.S. fuel pipeline and other targets.

Western governments have pledged to crack down on the cyber criminals, who operate largely in and around Russia, but have little to show in the way of progress.

The report on 2021 ransomware trends highlights the growing maturity and specialization of the ransomware market, with independent operators filling a lucra-

tive niche market. Specialists now range from the hackers who can break into networks or develop ransomware to the nontechnical operators who negotiate payments with victims.

The United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre said it's seen some ransomware gangs offer a 24/7 help center to victims to expedite ransom payments and restore encrypted data.

There's even money to be made by arbitrators who can settle payment disputes among the various ransomware criminals, according to the report.

"The criminal marketplace is incredibly efficient and constantly evolving," said John Hultquist, vice president of intelligence analysis at the cybersecurity firm Mandiant. "The fact that they can operate like this, it's evidence of our failure to get a good grip on this problem."

The report also describes the growing technical skills of ransomware gangs, which have been able to target cloud infrastructure — often touted as a safer alternative to storing data locally — and developed

code to stop industrial processes.

U.S. authorities said they'd seen ransomware attacks involving 14 out of 16 designated critical infrastructure sectors, including the defense industrial base, agriculture and information technology sectors.

"When critical infrastructure is held at risk by foreign hackers operating from a safe haven in an adversary country, that's a national security problem," National Security Agency Cybersecurity Director Rob Joyce said, adding that addressing ransomware is a "significant focus" of the NSA.

The joint report was issued Wednesday by the FBI, the NSA and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency in the U.S., the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre and the Australian Cyber Security Centre.

The report said that after hacks on the Colonial Pipeline in the U.S. in May and on Brazilian meat processor JBS SA in June, "ransomware groups suffered disruptions from U.S. authorities in mid-2021" and have targeted midsize victims to reduce scrutiny.



Large data centers have experienced outages that may be partly the result of chip errors. LEAH NASH/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2018

Tiny chips, giant headaches

As computer networks grow more complex, components' reliability comes under fire

By John Markoff

The New York Times

Imagine for a moment that the millions of computer chips inside the servers that power the largest data centers in the world had rare, almost undetectable flaws. And the only way to find the flaws was to throw those chips at giant computing problems that would have been unthinkable just a decade ago.

As the tiny switches in computer chips have shrunk to the width of a few atoms, the reliability of chips has become another worry for the people who run the biggest networks in the world. Companies like Amazon, Facebook, Twitter and many other sites have experienced outages over the last year.

The outages have had several causes, like programming mistakes and congestion on the networks. But there is growing anxiety that as cloud-computing networks have become larger and more complex, they are still dependent, at the most basic level, on computer chips that are now less reliable and, in some cases, less predictable.

In the past year, researchers at Facebook and Google have published studies describ-

ing computer hardware failures whose causes have not been easy to identify. The problem, they argued, was not in the software — it was somewhere in the computer hardware made by various companies. Google declined to comment on its study, while Facebook did not return requests for comment on its study.

"They're seeing these silent errors, essentially coming from the underlying hardware," said Subhasish Mitra, a Stanford University electrical engineer who specializes in testing computer hardware. Increasingly, Mitra said, people believe that manufacturing defects are tied to these so-called silent errors that cannot be easily caught.

Researchers worry that they are finding rare defects because they are trying to solve bigger and bigger computing problems, which stresses their systems in unexpected ways.

There is growing evidence that the problem is worsening with each new generation of chips. A report published in 2020 by chip maker Advanced Micro Devices found that the most advanced computer memory chips at the time were about 5.5 times less reliable than the previous generation. AMD did not respond to requests for comment on the report.

Until now, computer designers have tried to deal with hardware flaws by adding to special circuits in chips that correct errors.

The circuits automatically detect and correct bad data. It was once considered an exceedingly rare problem. But several years ago, Google production teams began to report errors that were maddeningly difficult to diagnose. Calculation errors would happen intermittently and were difficult to reproduce, according to their report.

A team of researchers attempted to track down the problem, and last year they published their findings. They concluded that the company's vast data centers, composed of computer systems based upon millions of processor "cores," were experiencing new errors that were probably a combination of a couple of factors: smaller transistors that were nearing physical limits and inadequate testing.

In their paper "Cores That Don't Count," the Google researchers noted that the problem was challenging enough that they had already dedicated the equivalent of several decades of engineering time to solving it.

Increasing complexity in processor design was one important cause of failure, according to Google. But the engineers also said that smaller transistors, three-dimensional chips and new designs that create errors only in certain cases all contributed to the problem.

In a similar paper released last year, Facebook researchers noted that some processors would pass manufacturers' tests but then began exhibiting failures in the field.

Storm forces SpaceX satellites out of orbit

By Marcia Dunn

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX's newest fleet of satellites is tumbling out of orbit after being struck by a solar storm.

Up to 40 of the 49 small satellites launched last week have either reentered the atmosphere and burned up, or are on the verge of doing so, the company said in an online update Tuesday night.

SpaceX said a geomagnetic storm Friday made the atmosphere denser, which increased the drag on the Starlink satellites, effectively dooming them.

Ground controllers tried to save the compact, flat-panel satellites by putting them into a type of hibernation and flying

them in a way to minimize drag. But the atmospheric pull was too great, and the satellites failed to awaken and climb to a higher, more stable orbit, according to the company.

SpaceX still has almost 2,000 Starlink satellites orbiting Earth and providing internet service to remote corners of the world. They circle the globe at an altitude of more than 340 miles.

The satellites hit by the solar storm were in a temporary position. SpaceX deliberately launches them into this unusually low orbit so that any duds can quickly reenter the atmosphere and pose no threat to other spacecraft.

There is no danger from these newly falling satellites, either in orbit or on the

ground, according to the company. Each satellite weighs less than 575 pounds.

SpaceX described the lost satellites as a "unique situation."

Such geomagnetic storms are caused by intense solar activity like flares, which can send streams of plasma from the sun's corona hurtling toward Earth.

Since launching the first Starlink satellites in 2019, Elon Musk envisions a constellation of thousands more satellites to increase internet service.

London-based OneWeb has its own internet satellites. And Amazon plans to start launching its satellites later this year.

Astronomers are distressed that these mega constellations will ruin nighttime observations from Earth.

Senators calling for suspension of gas tax

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some Democratic senators on Wednesday called for suspending the federal gas tax for the remainder of the year to help consumers struggling with rising fuel prices.

The legislation from Sens. Mark Kelly of Arizona and Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire could prove popular during an election year in which the average price of gas nationally, according to AAA, exceeds about \$3.45 a gallon and could go higher during peak driving season. Four other Democratic senators quickly signed on as co-sponsors. Still, the bill faces an uphill fight to become law.

Kelly said gas prices are putting a strain on families that need to fill up the tank to get to work and school.

The federal gas tax has remained at 18.4 cents per gallon since 1993. The money goes into a trust fund that helps pay for highway construction projects and public transit. The bill would require the Treasury Department to transfer general funds into the trust fund to make up for the lost gas tax revenue and keep the trust fund solvent, likely requiring additional borrowing.

"We need to continue to think creatively about how we can find new ways to bring down costs, and this bill would do exactly that, making a tangible difference for workers and families," Hassan said.

The bill also would require the Treasury Department to monitor whether oil and gas companies are passing along the savings to consumers and encourages the department's secretary to take enforcement actions to ensure they do.

Over the years, lawmakers have visited the idea of suspending the gas tax but did not generate enough support to pass a bill. Legislation introduced last year in the House has support from some Republicans.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Watchdog: Brexit is not delivering

LONDON — Britain's departure from the European Union has brought higher costs, more red tape and border delays for businesses, and not yet delivered promised benefits, a public spending watchdog said Wednesday.

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee said that the "only detectable impact" of Brexit so far has been to increase burdens on businesses.

Supporters of Brexit argued that leaving the bloc would allow the U.K. to slash red tape, increase productivity and streamline the economy.

"Yet the only detectable impact so far is increased costs, paperwork and border delays," said Meg Hillier, the Labor Party lawmaker who heads the committee.

Starbucks fires 7 at Memphis shop

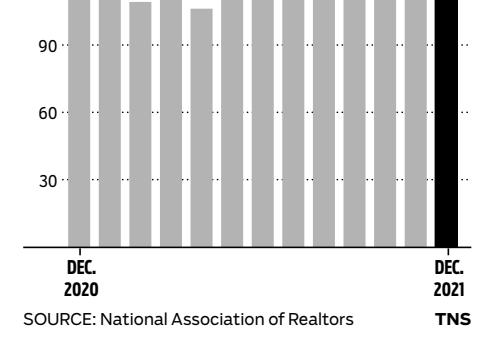
Starbucks on Tuesday fired seven employees in Memphis, Tennessee, who were seeking to unionize their store, one of several dozen nationwide where workers have filed for union elections since December.

A Starbucks spokesperson said the employees had violated company safety and security policies. The union seeking to organize the store accused Starbucks of retaliating against the workers for their labor activities.

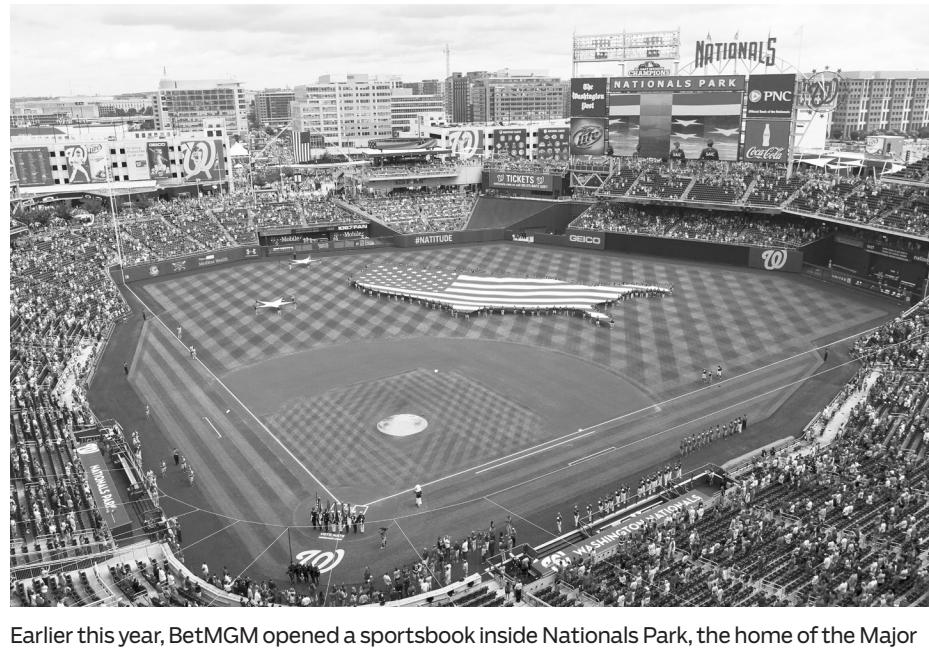
Reggie Borges, a company spokesperson, said Starbucks fired the workers after an investigation revealed violations. Two of the terminated employees said some of the supposed violations were common practices at the store and that employees were not previously disciplined over them.

Pending home sales

The Pending Home Sales Index, a measure of housing contract activity, fell 3.8 percent to 117.7 in December 2021.



BUSINESS



Earlier this year, BetMGM opened a sportsbook inside Nationals Park, the home of the Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals in the nation's capital. **MARK TENALLY/AP 2013**

Game of chance: Teams bring sportsbooks inside stadiums

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Professional sports teams and gambling companies in the U.S. are increasingly bringing sportsbooks to the game, opening betting facilities in or near stadiums.

It might seem counter-intuitive to spend millions on brick-and-mortar retail outlets when over 80% of U.S. sports betting is done via phone or computer. But the idea is not only to cash in on game day traffic, but to provide a place for fans to eat, drink, watch — and bet on — many types of sports all year long, even when the stadium is empty.

Already this year, BetMGM opened a sportsbook at Nationals Park, the Washington, D.C., home of baseball's Washington Nationals, and FanDuel announced plans for a sportsbook inside Chicago's United Center, where the NBA's Bulls and the NHL's Blackhawks play.

"People still want to wager in person," said Keith Wall, FanDuel's vice president of retail operations. "You have sports betting

operating right where the fans are."

Matt Prevost, BetMGM's chief revenue officer, said retail outlets are designed as much for off-days as for game days.

"We look at this as an opportunity to engage with fans not only on game days, but we're also looking at people in the local neighborhood to engage with them," he said. "Retail is a great opportunity to put a face to a brand. It's a big part of our strategy."

The first bet MGM's Washington book took was \$5 on the San Francisco 49ers to beat the Los Angeles Rams on Jan. 30 — the first win for the house.

FanDuel and the Phoenix Suns opened a sportsbook at the Footprint Center last September. The company hopes to have its Chicago facility up and running in time for the start of basketball and hockey in the fall.

When the NFL season resumes this fall, the Arizona Cardinals will have a BetMGM sportsbook on the grounds of State Farm Stadium.

DraftKings is planning a sportsbook adjacent to

Wrigley Field in Chicago, where the Cubs play.

Capital One Arena in Washington, home to the NHL's Capitals and NBA's Wizards, opened a sportsbook in 2020.

Legislation is pending in New York that would allow betting kiosks in venues like Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, the Mets' Citi Field, and Highmark Stadium, home to the NFL's Buffalo Bills.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way in 2018 for all 50 states to offer legal sports betting, fans have been betting on games from their seats in stadiums and arenas using their mobile phones.

Teams around the country also have opened sports betting lounges aimed at those fans, but do not offer bets.

That is largely the domain of sportsbooks on stadium grounds, but outside the walls of the facility like the ones in East Rutherford, New Jersey, where the NFL's Giants and Jets play, and in Philadelphia, near the homes of the NFL's Eagles and baseball's Phillies.

Bars, restaurants raise glass to high demand for whiskey

By Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Bill Thomas sold thousands of bottles from his whiskey inventory in 2020 to keep his Washington, D.C., whiskey bar afloat amid the coronavirus pandemic.

By the next year, the whiskey curator known for serving superpremium and hard-to-get brands was replenishing inventories, even as COVID-19 forced him to face uncertainty.

"There's more bottles in here today than there were when we sold out when the pandemic hit," Thomas, owner of Jack Rose Dining Saloon, said last week.

Thomas' restocked supplies reflect the start of a comeback for an important segment of the spirits industry's business — on-premise sales from U.S. restaurants and bars.

Those sales volumes — about one-fifth of the U.S. spirits market — rose 53% in 2021, following pandemic-related restaurant and bar closures and restrictions nationwide in 2020, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States said last week. The recovery isn't complete. Last year's on-premise sales were still down 14% from pre-pandemic levels in 2019, the council said.

Despite ongoing challenges due to the pandemic, American whiskey producers toasted another year of growth. Combined U.S. sales for bourbon, Tennessee whiskey rose 6.7%, or \$288 million, to \$4.6 billion in 2021, the council said.

Domestic volumes rose 4.5% to 29.7 million cases. Demand for superpremium brands continued to surge last year, the council said. Superpremium volumes rose 15.6% in the bourbon, Tennessee whiskey and rye segment last



Combined U.S. sales of bourbon, Tennessee whiskey and rye whiskey rose 6.7% to \$4.6 billion in 2021. **KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP**

year, the trade association said.

Industrywide, overall sales and volumes grew for U.S. distilled spirits suppliers, and the spirits industry again increased its share of the total beverage alcohol market, the council said.

"Consumers savoring spirits at home and trading up to higher-end brands, combined with the gradual reopening of bars and restaurants, resulted in record sales for the spirits sector," said Chris Swonger, the council's president and CEO.

Overall supplier sales in the U.S. were up 12% in 2021 to reach \$35.8 billion, while volumes rose 9.3% to 291.1 million 9-liter cases, the council said in its annual report.

Tequila was a key growth driver, accounting for nearly one-third of the total increase in spirits revenue, it said. Irish whiskey had a strong 2021, posting nearly 18% volume growth.

In 2020, as the spirits sector suffered from pandemic-related clampdowns on bars and restaurants, sales at liquor store and other retail outlets surged. Those off-premise sales reflected enduring demand for a good stiff drink, as consumers increasingly mixed their

own drinks at home.

Last year, off-premise sales volumes were flat, but up 19% from 2019, the council said.

While waiting for his bar business to fully recover, Thomas has started capitalizing on the pandemic-era trend among consumers to increasingly mix their own drinks at home. He converted part of Jack Rose into a bottle shop that includes coveted single-barrel selections for take-home options.

And a pandemic-inspired twist for thirsty customers, in which restaurants serve cocktails-to-go, continues to take hold. Cocktails-to-go are now permanent in 16 states, while 14 more states extended their measures, the council said. Retailer home-delivery laws passed in eight states.

For his business, Thomas summed up 2021 as "the worst roller coaster, finishing with a wreck at the end" as the omicron variant spread late in the year. This year remains a "complete uncertainty" as the threat from COVID-19 persists, he said, but he's also bullish about the long-term outlook.

"We know it's going to come back," he said. "We are optimistic. Whiskey is bulletproof, literally."

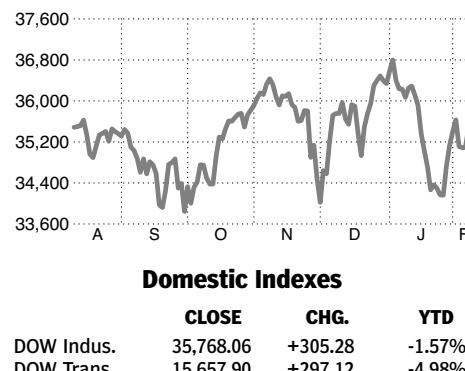
MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, February 10, 2022

DOW
35,768.06 +305.28

10-YR T-BOND
1.93% -.02

GOLD
\$1,835.20 +8.60



Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	89.66	89.36	+19.21%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.01	4.25	+7.48%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.65	2.63	+19.08%

METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Gold (oz)	1,835.20	1,826.60	+.42%
Silver (oz)	23.34	23.20	+.03%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx	PREV.	CLOSE WK.
Britain	1.3535	.7388	3.25 3.25
Canada	.7892	1.2671	3-mo. T-Bill 0.27 0.20
China	.1572	6.3627	6-mo. T-Bill 0.58 0.46
Euro	1.1432	.8747	5-yr T-Note 1.82 1.60
Japan	.008659	115.49	10-yr T-Note 1.93 1.76
Mexico	.048821	20.4830	30-yr T-Bond 2.24 2.10

Money Rates

ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx	PREV.	CLOSE
Britain	1.3535	.7388	3.25 3.25
Canada	.7892	1.2671	3-mo. T-Bill 0.27 0.20
China	.1572	6.3627	6-mo. T-Bill 0.58 0.46
Euro	1.1432	.8747	5-yr T-Note 1.82 1.60
Japan	.008659	115.49	10-yr T-Note 1.93 1.76
Mexico	.048821	20.4830	30-yr T-Bond 2.24 2.10

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Global Markets

CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	15,482.01	+239.63	+1.57%
London	7,643.42	+76.35	+1.01%
Hong Kong	24,829.99	+500.50	+2.06%
Nikkei	27,579.87	+295.35	+1.08%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	18.94	+2.51	-30.4
AT&T Inc (T)	24.50	+.56	-4.98
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	132.85	+4.62	-7.7
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	18.76	+.50	+4.5
Amphenol Corp (APH)	79.99	+1.34	-8.5
Apple Inc (AAPL)	176.28	+1.45	-.7
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	45.80	+.09	-8.2
Bakkt Holdings Inc (BKKT)	7.62	+1.68	-10.5
Bank of America (BAC)	49.28	-.10	+10.8
Barnes Group (B)	46.12	+.62	-1.0
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2626.98	+85.60	+9.5
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	67.14	+1.25	+7.7
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	104.79	-.64	+1.6
Carnival Corp (CCL)	23.19	+.64	+15.3
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	47.98	+1.92	-11.5
Charter Communic (CHTR)	614.75	+5.63	-5.7
Cigna Corp (CII)	232.38	+.61	+1.2
CocaCola Co (KO)	61.04	-.96	+3.1
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	49.77	+.56	-1.1
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	2.53	+.19	-18.6
Disney (DIS)	147.23	+4.75	-4.9
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	117.21	+.81	-8.0
Enphase Energy Inc (ENPH)	161.89	+17.39	-11.5
Ethan Allen (ETD)	25.62	+.04	-2.5
Eversource Energy (ES)	87.36	-.40	-4.0
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.82	-.00	-7.1
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	79.00	-.38	+29.1
Ford Motor (

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't allow ads for gambling on TV

Regarding your story about problem gambling [Page 1, Jan. 31, "Betting and betting and betting"]: In approving online casino gambling and sports betting, the state did almost nothing to reduce its social costs. Lawmakers knew that gambling addiction would become a bigger problem, but they rejected impact studies and set aside minimal funding for gambling treatment.

But lawmakers can, and should, ban television advertising. In testimony to lawmakers last year, the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling cited estimates that 1% of U.S. adults have a severe gambling problem and 2% to 3% a mild to a moderate gambling problem. That equals about 100,000 state residents, plus families.

Television advertising helps no one but the gambling industry. And this is an industry that is taking money from our communities and leaving ruined lives in its wake. We need to keep the number of people who gamble online from expanding, and a good step in that direction is to ban slick and dangerous advertising.

Patrick Thibodeau, Enfield

Klarides is not one who unites

Hearing that Themis Klarides wants to run for the Senate to defeat Sen. Richard Blumenthal is funny [Page 1, Jan. 31, "Klarides to run for US Senate"]. She claims she would unite the Senate in Washington when she couldn't do that in Hartford. She leads more by division than unification. She wasn't good for us and would be even worse for the country.

Barbara Ouellette, Plymouth

Here's a solution for police shooting range

It certainly sounds ridiculous to put that much money into the state police shooting range site that Simsbury residents object so strongly to [Page 1, Feb. 1, "Moving target"]. So, how about this for the site? This state is filled with empty buildings formerly occupied by businesses.

Abandoned big box stores, malls and manufacturers have the size, parking and locations that make them a perfect candidate for such a use. Many of these buildings have in excess of 100,000 square feet and the length needed for shooting lanes that could be adapted to state police use, for less than the \$10 million needed for Simsbury.

The issue of noise could be lessened by soundproofing and using a location with minimal adjacent residences. In doing so the blight of these abandoned buildings is corrected, and money is then pumped into a depressed location.

Gary Pipkin, Chester

Letter writer omits scientific facts

It makes sense to have all nursing home visitors tested for COVID [Letters, Jan. 30]. In his letter, Mr. McGuigan seems more concerned about staff being overworked than the health and safety of our most vulnerable population. And to turn Gov. Ned Lamont's concern for their lives into a conspiracy theory about excess test kits is, to me, abhorrent. Testing, masking and vaccinating all work against COVID-19. The efficacy of such practices is proved by factual data collection and processing.

If people had listened to medical science from the beginning, what has become a rogue virus would have been controlled before being allowed several mutations. People forget the early '50s when the deadly polio virus was eradicated because parents listened to medical experts, insisting their children get vaccinated, instead of listening to self-serving power-mongers and the misinformed.

David Gregorski, Coventry

Why does Courant ignore Wolf Pack?

Once again, the Courant has failed to recognize our AHL Hartford Wolf Pack. It's either that they're not newsworthy or the Courant is just plain disinterested. I'd vote for the latter. It's too bad because the Wolf Pack are presently atop the Atlantic Division, right along with their parent club New York Rangers. But we rarely read about them. I'm certain that if the Wolf Pack were affiliated with the Boston Bruins, we'd rate at least a half page or even a whole page of coverage.

Should the Wolf Pack make the playoffs in pursuit of the Calder Cup, you can be certain that the Courant will be the first to jump on the bandwagon and find room to report it. It would just go to prove that you're a bunch of hypocrites. I've been a Courant subscriber for as long as I can remember, but I'm seriously contemplating not renewing my subscription. I'm also certain this letter is falling on deaf ears and will probably end up in the trash.

John Thieling, Tolland

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

EDITORIAL

As the state's top prosecutor, credibility is among the most important qualities Richard Colangelo could have, and even the suggestion that his credibility was in question created a dire situation for his ability to carry out the job.



Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo allegedly didn't tell a straight story about meeting and hiring Anastasia Diamantis — the only candidate he interviewed for a \$99,000 a year job — while he was lobbying her father, former state budget chief Kostas Diamantis, for raises, according to a report released last week. **TYLER SIZEMORE/AP FILE**

Colangelo makes right call

Chief State's Attorney Richard J. Colangelo, Jr. did the right thing Wednesday.

Facing an inquiry by the state's Criminal Justice Commission, Colangelo agreed to resign amid powerful pressure from the top of government over an alleged patronage hiring.

Colangelo said in a letter to the commission that he would retire March 31.

You could practically hear the sigh of relief ripple across the state.

Supreme Court Justice Andrew McDonald, who also serves as the chairman of the Criminal Justice Commission, said he wanted to "thank Mr. Colangelo for doing the right thing today, under very difficult circumstances."

The difficult circumstances were widely known in Connecticut at this point. Colangelo was under the justice commission's microscope because he was behind the decision to hire Anastasia Diamantis, the daughter of a state budget officer, while Colangelo was seeking help for raises for himself and other senior employees from that budget officer.

The hiring was first revealed in a column by Kevin Rennie last year in the

Hartford Courant. The younger Diamantis was given a starting salary of about \$99,000. The elder Diamantis no longer works for the state and federal authorities are investigating state programs he oversaw.

Former U.S. Attorney Stanley A. Twardy Jr., who Gov. Ned Lamont hired late last year to investigate Colangelo's hiring decision, released a report that questioned Colangelo's credibility.

Lamont had said very clearly and publicly that he would have fired Colangelo if he had the power to do so, as he had "zero tolerance for this type of ethical malfeasance."

"I don't hire him. I don't fire him. But if I did, he'd be gone," Lamont has said.

It was unreasonable to think that Colangelo's job could survive that report and those words.

As the state's top prosecutor, credibility is among the most important qualities Colangelo could have, and even the suggestion that his credibility was in question created a dire situation for his ability to carry out the job.

Further, the burgeoning controversy

hounding Colangelo included that the process to remove a chief state's attorney would have to follow a complicated and little understood group of regulations that had not previously been used and the Criminal Justice Commission could have been tasked with a long, expensive and likely unpleasant impeachment trial.

McDonald said Colangelo will use the remainder of his time in office on administrative duties and would not prosecute or investigate any cases.

That is a smart move, as then there will not be cases that could be called into question later because of the presence of Colangelo.

Colangelo had last year been pressing for raises for himself and senior prosecutors, arguing that salary scales for prosecutors were imbalanced, and the disparities hurt recruitment efforts. Those were not approved, and it's not known whether they ever will be.

Now, the state needs to begin the process of seeking a new chief state's attorney. Returning credibility to that office will be key and important to the state's criminal justice system.

Where Orwell's '1984' comes to life

By Martin Cohen and Keith Tidman

George Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four" is a cautionary tale of dystopian superstates. Published in 1949, the book speculated how the world might be in 35 years, while also commenting on the Soviet Union.

Here are some of the reasons we believe the book's warnings about authoritarianism are coming true.

In "1984," the government of Oceania, a superstate, "seeks power entirely for its own sake." An official admits, "We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power, pure power."

Power over their own citizens, the kind that the pandemic has highlighted with countries like China and France, allowing citizens out of their homes only with a special "exemption."

Meanwhile, authoritarian countries like Thailand, Turkey, Hungry and Venezuela, maintain heavy-handed control of their populations, denying citizens a public forum to object to policy. "Pure power" is intoxicating.

There's state violence too. Orwell writes, "If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face — forever." In France, police in balaclavas and no identification have used excessive force, firing explosive tear gas grenades at peaceful protesters, blinding some.

In Myanmar, the military seized power and has conducted a harsh crackdown on the Rohingya minority population, causing them to flee. And grim prisons such as Iran's Evin and Syria's Sednaya stand as infamous monuments to everyday state violence.

In "1984," Orwell describes a well-organized propaganda machine to ensure the government's control of the superstate. He writes that control requires "tear-

In Oceania, the Ministry of Truth tirelessly rewrites history, ensuring that "the past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth." So, too, in the politics of the United States, some officials have insisted on alternative facts, endorsing the spurious mantra "stop the steal" to advance the untruth of the 2020 presidential election results being illegitimate.

As for revisionist history in the name of censorship, that has been a millennia-long tendency. This is why the U.S. Congress' investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, assault of the Capitol matters.

Orwell writes that "if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought," an insight that spurs Oceania to employ "doublethink" and "newspeak" in its messaging. Maybe that's why, in the United States, researchers have found significant differences in how the political parties express themselves.

Some social media shape the news, repeating messages, using information selectively, to keep the political base attentive. It works. Some governments have always been effective at understanding the power of those messaging dynamics. Especially autocracies, where untruths can be put to use.

As for Orwell's depiction of avaricious Big Brother, it is a jealous master: "There will be no love, except the love of Big Brother." What we remember of "1984" is the TV screen in the room's corner, with Big Brother watching and speaking.

It's commonplace today that surveillance cameras watch us all the time. But less appreciated is that "personal assistants," like Alexa and Siri, are watching and listening. And reporting to, if not Big Brother, certainly Big Tech.

Along with social media's insinuation into our lives has come the vacuuming of mammoth amounts of data readily available for commodification, monetization — and social control.

Martin Cohen is a philosophy instructor and author of several books. Keith Tidman is an author of essays on social and political opinion.

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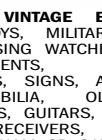
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TAG SALES

Tag Sales & Flea Markets

COLUMBIA
Estate sale - 2 Webster Ln, 10 am to 4 pm, Feb 12 & 13. Furniture, kitchenware, books, games, jazz drum set, Xmas, men's suits, winter/summer toys, windsurfer and surf board, power and hand tools, crib.

WATERBURY - Estate Sale, 65 Hinsdale Ave, Fri 2/11 & Sat 2/12, 7am-7pm & Sun 2/13, 7am-3pm. Furniture, tools, home decor, everything must go!

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Announcements

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Brown & White Male, Pitbull/ Bull Dog Mix, Call Farmington Animal Control 860-675-2440

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

CRCOG is requesting RFQs/RFPs for Crumbling Foundations services. Please go to www.crcog.bonfirehub.com to view these opportunities.
2/10/22 7140820

Pursuant to §19a-638(a)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, Day Kimball Healthcare, Inc., and Covenant Health, Inc. will submit the following Certificate of Need application. Applicant: Day Kimball Healthcare, Inc., 1000 Main Street, Putney, Inc. Address: 320 Pommet Street, Putney, Connecticut 06260. Proposal: Affiliation of Day Kimball Healthcare, Inc. with Covenant Health, Inc. Capital Expenditure: There is no capital expenditure associated with the proposal.
2/10/22 71407691

Veterans Terrace Phase 2 - East Hartford
CT RE-BID
Columbus Circle, East Hartford
GC to Subcontract: Approximate Start Date March 2022
Est. Cost \$10.9 Million

Due to the market volatility of construction materials when previously bid on 1.21.21, and in consideration of the market now showing signs of stability, this project is being re-bid.

Bidder should not rely on any documents previously reviewed, as alterations, modifications and revisions have been made.

Description of Work:

The project requires the abatement of ACM & PCB's and select demolition (from top of existing foundation up) of (7) existing residential six (6) unit buildings & (1) existing residential four (4) unit building. Also, there are (2) existing (4) unit residential and (1) community building that require abatement of ACM & PCB's and complete demolition including foundations. Excavation and installation of foundations and slabs on grade at (1) new apartment building, infill of saved full basement foundations and placement of concrete slab on grade @ (8) buildings. All (8) selectively demo'd & (1) new buildings will be stick framed new construction, with engineered open web floor joist and roof trusses. New site fea... will include add'l parking, underground utilities, decorative lighting, and landscaping. This contract is subject to state set-aside and contract compliance requirements, including nondiscrimination statutes and set-aside requirements. State law requires a minimum of twenty-five (25) percent of the state-funded portion of the contract to be set aside for award to subcontractors holding current certification from the Connecticut Department of Administration Services. The contractor must demonstrate good faith effort to meet the 25% set-aside goals. Certified state and local SBE/MBE/WBE and Section 3 companies are highly encouraged to submit. Davis-Bacon residential wage rates apply. Certified payrolls and Monthly employee utilization reporting also required.

All proposals must be broken down for each trade/line item you are bidding.
Tax applicable to all materials.

Bonds are not required.
General building permit only by GC. All MEP proposals must include cost for their respective permits.

Plans and specifications are available for purchase from:
Merritt Graphics, 650 Franklin Ave, Hartford, CT 06114, 860-296-2500.
Prentis Printing Solutions, 35 Pratt St, Meriden CT 06434-1266.

Plans and specs are also available via Dropbox at the following links:

Drawings: <http://www.dropbox.com/s/0f17ndf95tu0/VT%20Phase%20%20%20Specs%20Vol%20.pdf?dl=0>

Specs Volume 1: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1h61g54gn/VT%20Phase%20%20%20Specs%20Vol%20.pdf?dl=0>

Specs Volume 2: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1h61g54gn/VT%20Phase%20%20%20Specs%20Vol%20.pdf?dl=0>

Requests for Information (RFI's) must be received no later than 2.14.2022

BIDS SHALL BE MAILED/RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 2.18.22

Bids must be emailed to both:
Ross Burton: rburton@carabettabros.com
Tony Padelli: tpadelli@carabettabros.com

GC Contact - SRC Construction Services, LLC 200 Pratt Street, Meriden, CT

Contact: Ross Burton @ 203-537-0066
Tony Padelli @ 203-537-6065

2/10/22 7143772

Connecticut

Development Coordinator for Parkville Neighborhood Projects Hartford, Connecticut

The Capital Region Development Authority ("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the State of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified contractor to serve as development project coordinator in the Parkville neighborhood. Please see full posting and submission requirements at <https://ordct.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/1-27-2022-DevelopmentCoordinator-ParkvilleProjects.pdf>

1/28-2/13/2022 7138105

Bid Number: 022-001
Start / End Dates & Times: 02/01/2022 - 2:00pm to 02/28/2022 10:00am

Bid: Open

TOWN OF KENT
KENT VILLAGE CENTER STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE ONE

KENT, CT
Issued on: Tuesday February 1, 2022
Bid Due: Friday, February 28, 2022 at 10:00 AM

The Town of Kent ("OWNER" or the "OECD") having its place of business at 41 Kent Green Boulevard, Kent, CT 06757 invites sealed bids for Kent Village Center Streetscape Improvements - Phase One, in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by RLRS Consulting, Inc.

Bids must be received at the office of The First Selectman, Town Hall, Second Floor, 41 Kent Green Boulevard, PO Box 678, Kent, CT 06757 until 10:00 AM local time on Monday, February 28, 2022, at which time and place said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Please go to Town of Kent website for bid package information <https://www.townofkentct.org/home/bids/kent-village-center-street-scape-improvements-phase-one-2/9/2022/2022/7146870>

Watertown S/M/WBE Contracting Opportunity. Andron Construction requests proposals from certified SBE/MWBE firms for the DEEP West District Headquarters Black Rock State Park, 2065 Thamstoros Road, Watertown, CT 06795. Required trades include Site Construction, Landscaping, Cast-in-Place Concrete, Masonry, Structural Steel, Miscellaneous Metals, Structural Insulating Panels, Glue-laminated Construction, Architectural Woodwork, Laminate Clad Casework, Waterproofing, Insulation, Firestopping, Roofing, Sheet metal, Joint Sealants, Doors and Frames, Overhead Doors, All-Clad, Wood Windows and Hardware, Drywall, Floor Coverings, Acoustical Ceilings, Painting, Div 10, specialties, Laboratory, Furnishings and Equipment, Window Treatments, Elevator, MEP and Premanufactured Steel Building. If interested, contact Richard Hamilton at: Andron Construction, 21 Anderson Lane, Goldens Bridge, NY 10526, Ph: 914-232-7531. Bids are due 2/24/22.

2/10/2022 7147078

Space No. Customer Name Inventory

667 Nastasia Lozano Hslg gds/furn

36 Elizabeth Rose Grove Hslg gds/furn

849 Antwaine Bernadette Normandy Hslg

stereo equip

913 Jackie Bechard Hslg gds/furn

674 Mischelle Bernadette Normandy Hslg

gds/furn

1019 Mischelle Bernadette Normandy Hslg

gds/furn

975 Mischelle Bernadette Normandy Hslg

gds/furn

592 Jorge Mercado Hslg gds/furn

1453 Jessica Deleon Clothes

And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in the notice for payment of such having expired, the awards will be sold

OBITUARIES BY TOWN**Avon**

Dirce Brightenti
Thomas Robinson
Bloomfield
Casper D. Johnson
Tommie L. Peay, III
Bristol
Douglas A. Bechard
Richard J. Bilodeau
Cathy A. Demers
L. Michael Golden
East Hampton
Richard L. Merritt
East Hartford
Dirce Brightenti
Joseph F. Schatz, Jr.
Enfield
Cynthia W. Martin
Claire L. Poirier
Farmington
Catherine A. Beck
Thomas Robinson
Glastonbury
Catherine A. Beck
Hartford
Anna Amato
Anthony P. Bibbins Sr.
Coleman Harris
Thomas H. Lynch
Clare T. Murphy
Ruth L. Packer Handlen
Annie Ward

Manchester

Anthony P. Bibbins Sr.
Elle M. Hurley-Laliberte
Marlborough
Richard L. Merritt
Meriden
Thomas J. Cabral, Jr.
Newington
Thomas H. Lynch
Other Towns in CT
Maryann Coleman
Patricia Dobosz
L. Michael Golden
Tonia Marvonek
Plainville
Cathy A. Demers
Southington
Michael A. Bohigian
Robert Martino, Jr.
Vernon
Joseph F. Schatz, Jr.
Waterbury
Maryann Coleman
West Hartford
Anna Amato
Windsor
Tommie L. Peay, III
OUT OF STATE
Ruth L. Packer Handlen
Harwich, MA

* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES**Coleman, MaryAnn**

MaryAnn Coleman, 78, of Cheshire, entered into eternal life with our Heavenly Father surrounded by her loving family on January 11, 2022. She was the cherished wife of James L. Coleman. MaryAnn was born on July 27, 1943, in West Hartford, daughter of the late William J. Ryan Jr. and Jane (Sheridan) Ryan. In addition to James, her beloved husband of 60 years, MaryAnn is survived by her devoted children James W. Coleman and his wife Lynn of Southington, Deirdre Imus of Texas and Barbara Ann Coleman-Hekeler and her husband Keith of Cheshire; her grandchildren James Jr., Robert, Hannah, Ava, and Tessa Coleman, Wyatt Imus, Zachary Cates, Madeline Jane and Samantha Ann Hekeler; sisters: Sheila Ward, Patricia Ryan and husband Roger Payne, brother William J. Ryan III; brother-in-law Richard Kelly, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding her to death are her sister Barbara Kelly, son-in-law Don Imus, and mother-in-law Antoinette (Riccio) Coleman.

MaryAnn will be remembered as the sunshine of her family. She was the most beautiful woman in every way, a bright light, with a vibrant personality and always a song in her heart. She had the sincerest and caring ways, always helping everyone. She was a genuine and beautiful soul, graceful, compassionate, loving, kind, with a great sense of style, gorgeous smile, and a special way of making everything fun. She especially loved and adored being Grandma and spending time with her grandchildren. She never missed a moment to be with them. Her grandchildren cherish her and will miss her deeply.

MaryAnn started her music career at the young age of 3 singing with her father at the Bushnell Memorial in Hartford, CT. Music was in her soul and while attending Sedgwick elementary in West Hartford she quickly became first violinist and taught herself to play piano and sing. By the time she graduated from William Hall High School she earned a coveted spot in the State Choir. She married the love of her life James L. Coleman and they settled into Waterbury, Ct. to raise their three children. MaryAnn never stopped singing; in fact, she sang throughout her years raising her children. There was always music in the home filling it with the best of opera and musical theatre. For several decades MaryAnn studied voice and collaborated with the late renowned pianist and composer Richard DeRosa. She was a dedicated student of performance and trained operatic voice that led her to the grand opportunity of performing the opera Antigone in Greece for a summer at the historical centuries' old open amphitheaters throughout Europe. MaryAnn also earned her Equity and SAG credentials having toured with several off-Broadway musicals throughout the country including performing songs with Tom Jones and the late Harvey Schmidt (Fantasticks), two legendary American composers. She also lent her talent singing the National Anthem at many historical events such as a gubernatorial inauguration, live on Imus in the morning, Senatorial inaugurations and so many others.

MaryAnn's talent was recognized by the Waterbury Community Theatre (the longest running continuous civic theatre in the country) at the famous Palace Theatre and she quickly accumulated the accolades winning two Best Actress Awards for her leading roles as Miss Anna in The King and I and her unforgettable lead actress performances as Guinevere in Camelot. She also received two Best Producer Awards for her achievements in shows such as Cabaret, Chicago, Three Penny Opera and The Skin of our Teeth. She received stellar reviews for her lead role as Carrie in the musical Carousel.

In her later years MaryAnn's versatile talents led her to being a part of the WATR Radio family hosting Let's Talk.

Her voice, like a songbird, left an indelible memory on all her family, friends, community and anyone who had the pleasure of being in the presence of her singing. MaryAnn especially loved to teach children to sing, play the piano and have fun with a song, any song. She devoted many years to the community volunteer program creating, producing and mentoring children's yearly stage productions. Her volunteerism is to be admired as well. She embraced giving back to her community serving on multiple boards and mentoring our youth.

MaryAnn was a beautiful, glorious Mother, devoted and loving wife, irresistible grandmother, loyal and dear friend of many and a talent to be remembered forever.

She led a full and vibrant life and will be greatly missed by her loving family and friends. Our family will be forever grateful for Millie Delgado and Giuseppina Caruso, two loving care givers who brought comfort and love to our mom and family.

Even though she loved flowers she loved singing and mentoring young voices even more. MaryAnn often said: "Life is a song; Love is the music."

So in lieu of flowers we ask you to donate in our mother's memory to your favorite charity.

A Mass of Christian Burial in celebration of MaryAnn's life will be held Saturday February 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Bridget of Sweden Parish/St. Bridget Church 175 Main Street in Cheshire. Family and friends are asked to meet directly at church. Burial will follow in St. Bridget Cemetery. There are no calling hours. The Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire has care of arrangements. For additional information or to leave words of sympathy please visit www.fordfh.com.

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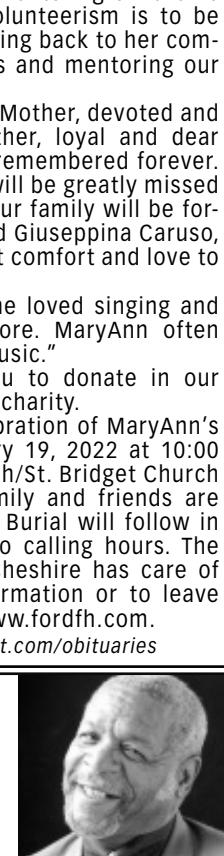
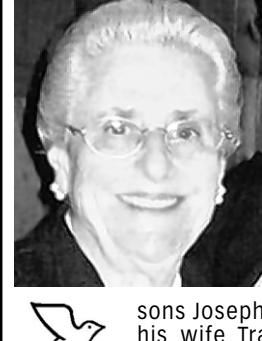
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Hartford Courant

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**OBITUARIES****AMATO, Anna**

On February 2, 2022, Anna L. Amato passed on to her eternal life with her loving God. Heaven could not receive a better wife, mother and grandmother. Anna was born on May 22, 1931, she was the youngest daughter of the late Santa (Bordonaro) and Vincenzo Lombardo. Anna is survived, and she will be dearly missed by her husband of 68 years Gaetano Amato along with her sons Joseph J. Amato and Anthony V. Amato, his wife Tracey and her cherished grandchildren Grace Elizabeth Amato and Michael Anthony Amato. In addition to her parents, Anna was predeceased by her loving and devoted sister Mary L. Coccia and caring brother-in-law Salvatore Coccia.

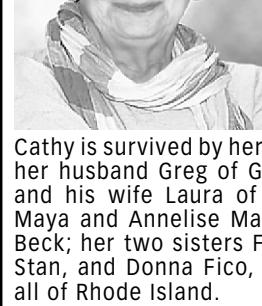
Anna was a devout Catholic who prayed daily. Her love for Fr. Ralph Diorio and his Healing Ministry gave her strength thru the years. She always enjoyed having local priests come to the house so she could feed and nourish them. In turn, they nourished her heart and soul. Cooking was her passion and few, if any recipes were written. Whether she was cooking for her family, friends or bringing food to her son during college and dental school she never walked in empty handed and always had enough to leave leftovers. For 51 years, she worked at Connecticut Spring & Stamping, alongside her husband. Each morning and every evening they would happily drive to and from work. The family wishes to thank Peter F. Youmans for his long friendship and his love, he was more than just the shop owner to Anna and Gaetano.

The births of Grace and Michael gave her a new purpose, as she became the ever-present g-ma! She was only a phone call away with soup or fried dough. She attended all their school functions but drew the line when it came to sporting events. She'd say, "I don't want to see them sad or get hurt". Anna was truly a wonderful woman, she will be missed by everyone who knew her.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 9 to 10:15 a.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Gianna Beretta Molla Parish/St. Brigid Church, 1088 New Britian Avenue, West Hartford. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery. Memorial donations in Anna's memory may be made to CCMC, PICU Department, 282 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.

D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Beck, Catherine A. (Fico)

Catherine A. (Fico) Beck, 74, of Glastonbury passed away on Monday, February 7, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Emily (DeMatteo) Fico. Catherine spent her childhood in Providence, Rhode Island. She has been a resident of Glastonbury since 1980.

Cathy is survived by her daughter Jennifer Manzotti, and her husband Greg of Glastonbury; her son David Beck and his wife Laura of Farmington; her grandchildren Maya and Annelise Manzotti, and Allison and Zachary Beck; her two sisters Fran Dickervitz and her husband Stan, and Donna Fico, and her niece Emily Dickervitz, all of Rhode Island.

Upon being fired from a staffing agency in 1981 she replied "you don't have to fire me because I quit," and began to make a name for herself with the establishment of JOBPROM Staffing Services. 41 years later her beloved JOBPROM is still owned and operated by her daughter Jennifer. She had an incredible sense for business, sales in particular, but the secret to her success was her ability to build life-long relationships with colleagues inside and outside the Company.

Cathy had a love for so many different things, including wild birds, black and white movies and Guns N' Roses—once coincidentally attending the same concert as her then high school-aged son. She positively adored her two cats, Polly and Anna who were so affectionate to her.

But what brought Cathy the most joy in life was her family and friends. She adored her grandchildren and loved spectating their sporting events, watching dance recitals, or hosting her annual cousins' pumpkin carving party. So many friends brought so much joy to her life, and she to theirs, it would be impossible to name each who was so special to her. Her son and daughter cherish every moment they spent with her, will always love her, and miss her deeply.

And much of this, it must be said, was accomplished from her wheelchair due to a fluke skiing accident almost 30 years ago. The following exchange describes her courage in adversity. The conversation took place about a year ago with the surgeon who operated on our mother at the time of her original accident in 1992. He told her: "Ever since I met you, when someone in the prime of their life had a spinal cord injury and asked me 'What can I accomplish from this wheelchair?' I would tell them about Cathy Beck."

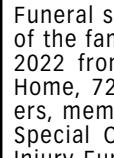
She is an inspiration to all who knew her.

Funeral services and burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends may call on Sunday, February 13, 2022 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospital for Special Care Foundation to support the Spinal Cord Injury Fund. Gifts may be sent to: Hospital for Special Care Foundation, 2150 Corbin Ave., New Britain, CT 06053. You may also donate online at hfsc.org. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanh.com.

MULRYAN

FUNERAL HOME

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Bibbins Sr., Anthony "Tony" P.

Our beloved father, Anthony "Tony" Preston Bibbins Sr., left this earth after a brief, but difficult illness. A fighter until the end, he passed away on February 7, 2022 at the age of 71 in Fernandina FL. Tony was born on August 15, 1950 to the late Tucker Fitchett Sr., and Maggie Bibbins in Eastville VA. Tony was an avid golfer and while living in Hartford CT could always be found playing at Keney Golf Course. Anthony, affectionately nicknamed "Man" by his siblings, is predeceased by sisters, Margurite Fulse (James) and Elsie Bibbins, and brother, Harold Bibbins. Tony is survived by former wife, Mildred Bibbins and their daughter, Zandra Thomas (Eugene Sr.) and son, Anthony Bibbins Jr.; former wife Laurie Bibbins and their son, Torell Bibbins; ten grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; brothers, Robert Smith (Eloise) and Norman Bibbins (Brenda); sister, Dorothy Carter (Sonny); and a host of nieces, nephews and dear friends. A celebration of life will be 12:15-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at the North Hampton Amenity Center, 86041 North Hampton Club Way in Fernandina Beach, Fla.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Demers, Cathy A.

Cathy A. (St. Thomas) Demers, 73, of Bristol, widow of Luke P. Demers, died on Wednesday (February 2, 2022) at New Britain General Hospital with her children by her side. Cathy was born on May 30, 1948 in New Britain and was daughter of the late Edward and Doris (Hadfield) St. Thomas. She graduated from Plainville High School and worked for Superior Electric until retiring to care for Luke. More recently, she worked as a Paraprofessional for Plainville Schools. Cathy loved her job and often spoke about how her "kids" were doing when they moved to another grade. Cathy was predeceased by, and will now be reunited with Luke Demers, the love of her life. She wasn't much of a cook but after "her Luke" passed, she mastered his Swedish Apple Pie. She loved flowers coming up in the Spring, shopping at craft fairs, the color yellow, and going out to eat or for a day trip with Cathy, Shirley, Carl, Dave and Mavis. Never one for neutrals, hers was a colorful wardrobe much like her personality. She called everyone hon or honey. Having only one granddaughter, Cathy made sure Rae was dressed every holiday in the most beautiful dress she could find. She also made it a point of taking her grandsons out to eat to know what was going on in their lives. She would do anything for her family or a friend. Cathy is survived by two children: Richard Brown and wife, Linda of Bristol, and Rebecca Brown-Johnsky and husband, Daniel of Plainville; five grandchildren: Raechel and Aiden Johnsky, Justin, Austin, and Dylan Brown; and extended family. Cathy also considered Barbara and Carl Freeman, and Bert and Sheryl Picard and their children friends who became family. She was predeceased by her younger brother Mark St. Thomas. Cathy's family has decided to have a celebration of her life in the spring when the flowers that she loved so much will be in bloom. In lieu of flowers, Cathy's children are directing donations to the Plainville Community Schools where a preschool playground item will be purchased in her memory at Linden Street School. Donations can be directed to Rich Brown, 133 Matthews St., Bristol, CT 06010. Funk Funeral Home, Bristol, is honored to serve the family. To offer condolences to the family, please visit Cathy's memorial web-site at www.FunkFuneralHome.com.

Funk's Since 1865

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Lynch, Thomas H.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Thomas Henry Lynch, 89 of Newington (formerly of Hartford). Dad passed peacefully with his family at his side on Saturday February 5, 2022. Born in Sommerville, MA, his parents moved to Hartford when he was 5 months old and he remained a resident of Hartford for 84 years before moving to Newington in 2017. Tom was a proud Air Force Veteran and after returning to Hartford he met and married his loving wife of 65 years, Margaret (MacInnis). They were devout loving soul mates. It would be tough to articulate Dad's presence and personality into words. Tom was known as "The Mayor of Maple Avenue" and was always the life of the party, quick with a joke, never ending smile and most known for living life to the fullest with many friends. He would always put others before himself. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and a great friend to all. In addition to his parents, Mary and Stephen Lynch, Tom was predeceased by brothers Joseph and Stephen Lynch. He is survived by his wife Margaret; children Karen-Lucia Misseri (husband Michael) and Tim Lynch (fiancée Lucia Franco); grandchildren Matthew, Jonathan and Justin.

Friends may call on Saturday February 12, 2022 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield. A Celebration of Tom's life will take place at 3:00. To extend condolences, please visit Farleysullivan.com. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in his memory to a charity of your choice.

Farley-Sullivan

Funeral Home

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Marvonek, Tonia

Tonia Genevieve (Madej) Marvonek, 86, of Stafford Springs, CT, passed peacefully on Friday, February 4, 2022. She was born March 18, 1935 in Chicopee, MA, daughter of the late Anthony J. Madej and Genevieve Toton. Tonia graduated from High School of Commerce, Springfield, MA. Upon retirement from the Town of Stafford, Borough Elementary School as Cafeteria Manager, she and Steve traveled throughout Europe, the Caribbean and U.S. where they made numerous friends and memories. Tonia was active in her community as a Brownie Leader, Cub Scouts and 4-H Leader. She was a member and volunteer at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, graciously providing her baked goods and handmade items for their annual 'Harvest Sale' and Stafford Senior Center. Tonia was known for her soft-spoken manner as well as her Slovak baking, sewing and knitting skills that she graciously taught to anyone who asked. Her "cards" were a joy to receive. She cherished time spent with her family, especially her grandchildren. Tonia will be missed by her three children: Charlene Smolkowicz, Donna Landry and her husband Douglas, and Jan Marvonek and his wife Laura; five grandchildren who treasured their "Grammy" and time spent with her: Heather (Jeff), Katie (Mike) Cassandra (Paul), Lauren and Colton; seven great-grandchildren: Bryson, Ela, Weston, Augustin, Jack, Vincent and Ava and several cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. She was predeceased by her husband Steve Marvonek and son-in-law John Smolkowicz. The family would like to thank Evergreen Health Care Center for their care. A calling hour will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 10:30-11:30 A.M. at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT, followed by a church service, for both Tonia and her late husband Steve, at 12:00 P.M. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 104 West Main St., Stafford Springs, CT. Burial will follow the service in Stafford Springs Cemetery, Stafford Springs, CT. Memorial donations may be made to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 104 West Main St., Stafford Springs, CT 06076 or Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001. To leave a condolence online for the family, or for directions, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com

Introvigne

Funeral Home, Inc.

OBITUARIES

Brighenti, Dirce "DeDe" (Fatturini)

Dirce "DeDe" (Fatturini) Brighenti, 96, of East Hartford, formerly of Bloomfield, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. She was the beloved wife of the late Emil T. Brighenti. Born and raised in Avon, daughter of the late Angelo and Clementine (Zamboni) Fatturini, she was a longtime

Bloomfield resident prior to settling with her daughter in East Hartford for the last 8 years. She was a parishioner of St. Ann's Church in Avon, prior to joining Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield. DeDe was a member of the Red Hats Society, Prince Thomas Savoy Society and the VFW Auxiliary Guildo T. Consolini Post #3272. She leaves her devoted daughter, Denise Mangan and her husband Thomas, her grandchildren, Heather, Jenny, Erin and Eddie, and great grandchildren, Tommy, Shah, Bella, Jayeden, Elijah, Elisha and Chino. She also leaves one nephew, George Szala of Bloomfield. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Saturday, February 12th, from 9:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 26 Wintonbury Ave., Bloomfield, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. She will be laid to rest beside her husband following the mass in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Prince Thomas Savoy Society-Women's Club, CT Humane Society or a charity of the donor's choice. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Fisette-Batzner, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington is serving her family. To share a memory, please visit us at www.duksa.net.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Cabral, Jr., Thomas J.

Thomas J. Cabral Jr., 55, of Meriden, CT, finished his earthly journey on January 27th, 2022.

Although born in Hartford, Tom spent most of his life in Meriden. He attended Orville H. Platt High School and graduated in 1984. He was recently employed by Sunmodo Co. in Waterbury. After a brief illness, he passed away with

his family by his side. He leaves behind two sons, Thomas J. Cabral III and Gavin Cabral. He also leaves behind his brother Jesse Cabral of Florida, his beloved Cherie Pointer, and his mother, Esther Cabral. He also leaves behind his two half sisters, Mary and Katie of Pennsylvania, as well as many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas Cabral Sr. of Windsor. He will always be remembered for the love he had for his friends and family, as well as his love for beaches, amusement parks, morning glories, his cat Gronk, and of course, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories or photo tributes at www.roshillfuneralhomes.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Dobosz, Patricia

Patricia "Patty" Dobosz, 74, of Willington passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 1, 2022. Born on September 23, 1947 in Manchester, Patty leaves behind her two children whom she loved dearly, Lisa Champion and her husband, Jason and Michael Dobosz and his wife, Christine. She also leaves behind her four

grandchildren, Jessica, Bethany, Kelsey and Aubree, and her great-grandchildren, Avery, Matthew, and Olivia. Patty is predeceased by her beloved husband, Ernie Dobosz; her family takes great comfort in knowing that they are now together again. Patty spent her life working with the public, entertaining friends, and taking care of her family. She especially loved to host Christmas Eve, bringing family and friends together around an enormous tinsel covered tree. Each year, Patty spent a week at her favorite cottage at Misquamicut Beach. Always young at heart, she looked forward to nightly walks on the sand, swimming in the ocean and beachside cocktails. She adored her two precious and affectionate shih tzus, Bonnie and Clyde. She was still working as a receptionist at Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation when she passed away. A co-worker remembers her as a "gritty, badass, sweetheart," and that is exactly what she was. She was strong and stubborn, but so very loved by her family and friends who will miss her greatly. Final arrangements will be private and will be held at a later date.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Martin, Cynthia W. (Beckham)

Cynthia W. (Beckham) Martin, 85, of Enfield, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at Evergreen Health Care Ctr., Stafford Springs, CT. She was the beloved wife of 62 years to William G. Martin. Born on March 29, 1936 in Fall River, MA to the late Ian and Frances (Peckham) Walker. She had resided in Enfield for the past 37 years and in Springfield, MA prior to that. Cynthia was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who dedicated her life to caring for her family and home. Besides her husband William, she is survived by six beloved children, Stephen Martin (Sharon) of NY, Catherine Martin of Enfield, Douglas Martin of Windsor, Lisa Martin of Manchester, Laurie Blanchard (Scott) of NC, and Ian Martin (Tricia) of Springfield, MA, five cherished grandchildren Kaitlyn, Erica, April, Raina, and Joshua and three great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two brothers, William Walker and Coll Walker both of RI, along with several nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by a brother Ian Walker, Jr.

Services were held from Browne Memorial Chapels, Enfield. Interment was in the Hazardville Cemetery, Enfield. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 200 Executive Blvd., 4B Southington, CT 06489-1058. To leave an online condolence message visit: www.brownmemorialchapels.com.

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Packer Handlen, Ruth Lydia

HARWICH, MA - Ruth Lydia Packer Handlen, 1/23/1934 - 2/7/2022, passed away peacefully at home leaving behind her son William, daughter Sharon, granddaughters Rhianne & Amber, their respective spouse Ted & Stephan along with great grandchildren Piper & Stephen.

To go to her side of the rainbow to join those loved ones who passed before her until we all meet again: We will think about you always. You will never be forgotten. We will hold you in our hearts, With knowledge that you will continue to guide us, As we find our own way throughout life. We Love You.

Services are private and thank you to all her friends and caregivers for your support and care.

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Bechard, Douglas A.

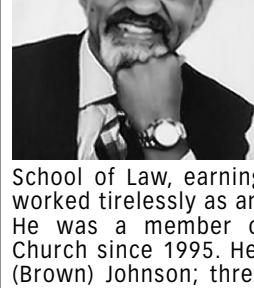
In the predawn hours of Saturday, February 5, Douglas A. Bechard, of Bristol, transitioned from earthly life into eternal life at the age of 79 after a prolonged illness. He leaves behind to grieve and cherish his memory his wife of 58 years, Susan (Chabot) Bechard; son Michael and his wife, Jennifer, of Hampton, NH; and son Kevin of Williamstown, MA; three grandsons, Tyler (New York, NY), Mitchell and Trevor (Hampton, NH); and his cherished granddogs, Emmy and Ivy, who gave him companionship and great joy. He is also survived by sisters-in-law, Judith Bechard, and Cynthia Young-Kessler and her husband, Robert; brother-in-law, David Chabot and his wife, M. Susan; several nieces and nephews; and special friends, Victor, Grace, and Peter Cwiek, Rose Marie Pavlik, and Chuck Eng, who were all a valued presence in his life. He was predeceased by his father, Albert Bechard, Sr. and brother, Albert Bechard, Jr. Doug was a retiree of General Motors, New Departure Division, where he worked for many years as a metallurgist. In his earlier years, he also worked for the Connecticut Light & Power Co. He was highly talented in the art of carpentry and woodworking, and he had a natural ability to fix just about anything, especially small engines. He was also an avid fan of UConn women's basketball. In honoring Doug's wishes, there will be no calling hours and burial will be private for immediate family. For anyone wishing to make a memorial contribution, please consider the ASPCA or Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital. Family and friends are invited to leave a condolence message by visiting www.dupontfuneralhome.com.

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Hurley-LaLiberte, Elle M.

Elle M. Hurley-LaLiberte, 57, of Manchester, passed away Thursday, February 3, 2022 at home. She was born on October 18, 1964, to Elizabeth A. Hurley (Bouffard) and the late William N. Hurley. Elle loved all her rescue dogs and working on her house and flower gardens. She grew up in Coventry, attended both Manchester Community College and Central CT State University, earning an AS and BS in Accounting and Business Administration, as well as Northeastern University where she earned an MA in Corporate Educational Technology. She proudly worked at the Hartford Insurance Company for 34 years, most recently as an Executive Training Consultant in the Risk Engineering Organization. In addition to her mother, she is survived by her two sisters, Mary A. Hurley of West Suffield, and Katherine Hurley-Dizigan of Coventry, her husband, Matthew Dizigan, and their children, Joyanne and Sean. Funeral Services are private, at the convenience of the family. A larger celebration of her life will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, www.cthumane.org; or Goodwill Southern New England, www.goodwillsne.org. For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Johnson, Casper D.

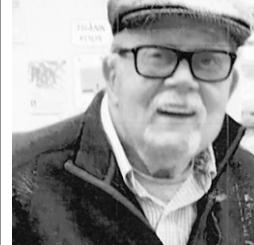
Casper D. Johnson, 68, of Bloomfield, CT, passed away peacefully on Sunday February 6, 2022 in Hartford, CT. Born in Chattanooga, TN on September 10, 1953, son of Robert A. Johnson (deceased) and Julia Johnson Pettyjohn. He was also raised by his stepfather Samuel Pettyjohn, Sr. (deceased). He graduated from The University of Connecticut School of Law, earning a Juris Doctorate in 1986. He worked tirelessly as an advocate for numerous clients. He was a member of Phillips Metropolitan C.M.E. Church since 1995. He is survived by his wife, Sandra (Brown) Johnson; three children, Tyauna Potenza and her husband Carl of Cromwell, Julia Johnson Brinson and her husband Corey of Bloomfield, and Danielle Johnson of Bloomfield; four grandchildren, Mackenzie, Trai, Joseph, and Matthew; his mother, Julia Johnson Pettyjohn; and siblings, nieces, nephews, special in-laws, and friends.

His family will receive friends on Monday, February 14, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., with a 12 p.m. Celebration of Life, at The Lodge Community Chapel, 130 Deerfield Rd., Windsor. Burial will follow at Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield.

To read the full obituary, attend the service remotely, or leave a condolence for his family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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Robinson, Thomas

Thomas Caloway Robinson died February 4th at home with his family near. Born in Chicago on September 23, 1937, he was the first born of Sheldon and Elberta Robinson. Tom was educated in Indiana and Illinois and earned a civil engineering degree from Purdue University. He worked in construction his entire career, arriving in Connecticut to build City Place in 1980. Tom was a man of quiet faith and steadfast habits. He met and married Joan Murphy at Purdue, and together they lived and loved six decades. They had three daughters, Lisbeth, Kristen and Courtney (Mark Borenstein), and a son, his namesake Thomas Caloway Robinson Jr. (Sarah). He was proud of each grandchild, Jessye Robinson of Peoria, IL, Nicholas Graham of Farmington, CT, Caloway, Miles and Emmett Borenstein of Avon, CT, Murphy, Oliver, Lucy and Abigail Robinson of Adelaide, South Australia. Tom was a kind and humble man with a generous spirit. He loved his family and friends. He had a strong work ethic and was an Eagle Scout. Surviving are his wife Joan, his sister Jean Tylnski (Robert) and beloved nieces and nephews around the USA. Tom was predeceased by his grandson Caloway, his sister Mary and his brother Guy.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, April 9th, 2022 at 11:00am in Memorial United Methodist Church, 867 West Avon Road, Avon. Memorial contributions may be made to the Memorial Garden Fund at Memorial United Methodist Church, 867 West Avon Road, Avon, CT 06001. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc., www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

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Merritt, Richard Lincoln**Merritt, Richard Lincoln**

Richard (Dick) Lincoln Merritt, loving husband to Betty Merritt (Markham) of Marlborough, died on February 2, 2022 at the age of 86. Richard was the son of Harold and Doris Merritt (Lincoln). He grew up in Coventry, Hartford, and Willington, CT. Richard graduated from Windham HS, and attended UConn before moving to East Hampton where he worked at Palm's Delicatessen and met the love of his life Betty. They married 60 years ago this coming April and had 2 children, Mark and Rachel.

Richard worked for Food Mart/Waldbaum's for 35 years as a store manager, district manager, and Director of Loss Prevention and Security in CT and MA. Upon retirement in 1996 he started a second career as "Junk Dealer Extraordinaire" and, with Betty, was a common fixture at auctions, antique shows, tag sales, and especially the Mansfield Flea Market. His sarcastic humor will be missed by many.

Living in Marlborough for 55 years, Richard Merritt was active in the Marlborough Youth Athletic League serving as treasurer for many years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, reading, world politics, good music, long drives and camping with his family in Maine during the summer. He enjoyed theater and travel, taking retirement cruises to Alaska, Europe, and the Caribbean. He mostly enjoyed quality time and conversation with his family as well as the weekly picnics with his wife or a glass of sherry with her on the back deck.

Richard is predeceased by his parents, brothers Arnold Merritt and Phillip Merritt, and grandson, Cameron Merritt. He is survived by his wife, Betty; son, Mark Merritt and daughter-in-law Melanie Merritt of Marlborough; daughter Rachel Rogers and son-in-law Brian Rogers of Ridgefield; and grandchildren Michael Figueiredo of Denver, CO, Elizabeth, Zachary, and Lydia. If you so choose, in lieu of flowers the family suggests that donations be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association at PO Box 308, Marlborough, CT. Or a charity of your choice in his memory. Calling hours will be on Friday February 25th, 2022 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St in East Hampton, CT. There will be a memorial service on Saturday February 26 at 11:00 am with a reception immediately following at the Marlborough Congregational Church, Marlborough, CT. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

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Murphy, Clare T.

Clare T. Murphy, currently of Burke, VA, formerly of Hartford, CT, entered into the Lord's embrace Wednesday, February 2, 2022. Born in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late John J. and Elizabeth (Farrell) Murphy. She graduated from Mt. St. Joseph Academy and St. Joseph's College. Clare worked for many years within the Hartford School system as a nurse before her retirement. Always interested in her community, Clare was very proud of her many years of community activism in H.A.R.T., Hartford Areas Rally Together, and other organizations. Whether sifting through records at city hall, watching for problems in her South West neighborhood, supervising community cleanups, or trying to make the communities of Hartford safer, no job was too big or too small for Clare to get involved. Clare was recognized as an outstanding Hartford senior who was strongly committed to her peers. She is survived by a niece, Joanne Fantini, and two nephews, John Fantini, and Michael Fantini, his wife Anne, and their children, Elizabeth and Wesley Brinkman, Michael, Jr., and Anneliese. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her sisters, Elizabeth M. Fantini, Patricia M. Murphy, and Maura C. Murphy. Funeral Services will be held Friday, February 11, 2022. Friends and relatives may call on the family from 8:30-9:30am at the Farley Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Rd, Wethersfield, leaving at 9:30am from the funeral home to a Mass of Christian Burial at 10am in Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Ave, Hartford. Burial will follow at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Rd, Bloomfield. Memorial donations may be made to LaSalette Mission Guild, 85 New Park Ave, Hartford, CT, 06106. To extend condolences, please visit Farleysullivan.com.

Farley-Sullivan**Funeral Home**

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Schatz, Jr., Joseph "Joe" F.

Joseph "Joe" F. Schatz, Jr., 85, of Vernon, beloved husband of over 40 years to Mary (Manning) Schatz, passed away on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Born in Hartford, the son of the late Joseph and Frances (Terragna) Schatz, he grew up and lived in Hartford and East Hartford before moving to Vernon over 40 years ago. He attended Hartford

Public High School and after high school he proudly served his country in the U. S. Army during the Korean War. Prior to his retirement in 1989, Joseph was a Hartford Police Officer for 28 years. After his retirement he worked for the Hartford County Sheriff's Department for several years. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and he was a member of the American Legion and the VFW. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Michael Schatz and his wife Sarah of Colchester, his daughter, Donna Henderson and her husband Donald of Florida; his six grandchildren, Madison, Lucy, and Jack Schatz, Chloe Alfieri, Jennifer Burto, and Jordan Christensen; his sister, Donna Schatz of Florida and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Bruce Schatz. His family will receive friends for calling hours on Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 10 - 12 noon with a funeral service beginning at 12 NOON at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon. Burial will follow in Valley Falls Cemetery, Vernon. For online condolences and guest book, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

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OBITUARIES

Peay, III, Tommie L.



Tommie L. Peay, III, 66, of Windsor, CT departed this life on Friday, February 4, 2022. A celebration of Tommie's life will take place on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 12:00pm at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Service (A Division of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services), 94 Granby Street, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Interment will be held at Elm Grove Cemetery, 1326 Poquonock Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095. To leave a message of comfort for his wife and family, to read his obituary and view livestreaming of services, please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com

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Ward, Annie



Annie J. Ward 73 of Hartford passed away on February 2, 2022. She was born on December 22, 1948 in Richland, GA. Annie is predeceased by her parents Willie & Fannie B. Jones. She's also predeceased by two of sons James T. Ward & Jeffrey T. Ward. Annie leaves behind her loving husband of 51 years Joseph L. Ward Sr. 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and a host of family & friends. Calling hours are 9:30-10:30 followed by the service Saturday, February 12, 2022 at The Lodge 130 Deerfield Rd. Windsor, CT 06095...To leave on-line condolences and see full Obituary please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

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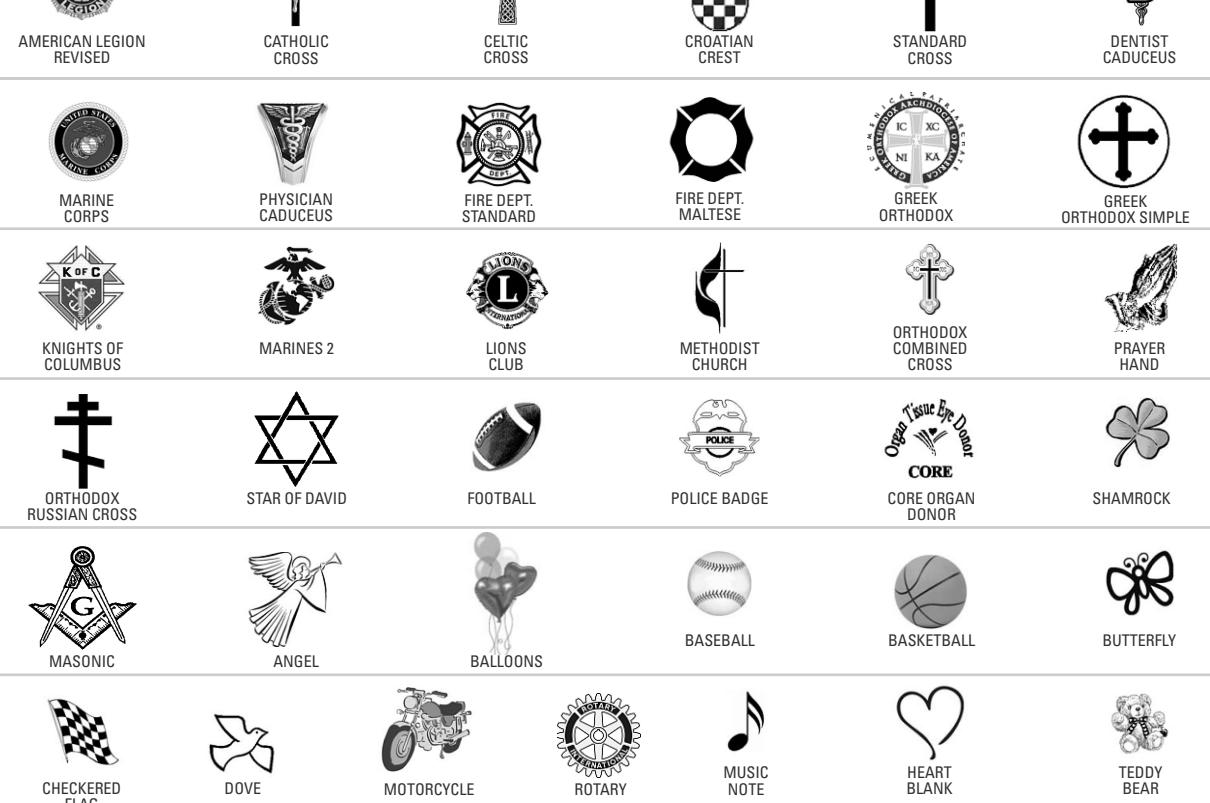
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CONNECTICUT

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Bristol changes course, welcomes Wheeler Clinic

Deal for downtown headquarters gets revival

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

After a startling vote in December appeared to scuttle Wheeler Clinic's plan to relocate to Bristol, the city abruptly switched its position this week and will welcome the nonprofit — and 160 jobs — to downtown.

"We move forward — this is a great thing

for Bristol," Mayor Jeff Caggiano said Wednesday morning following a lengthy city council debate Tuesday night that drew a standing-room-only crowd to city hall.

The decision to sell part of the former Bristol Centre Mall property to Wheeler Clinic means the city is closer than ever to redeveloping an eyesore that has plagued downtown for more than a decade.

"We only have one parcel left to sell now. And Wheeler could have shovels in the ground this summer," Caggiano said.

For Plainville-based Wheeler, the city

council's 5-2 vote Tuesday night ends three months of turmoil over where its headquarters will be built.

The nonprofit had appeared to be a certainty in Centre Square after negotiating an agreement with then-Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu last year. Wheeler was expected to buy part of the city-owned land for \$600,000 and build a three-story, 35,000-square-foot headquarters and medical office.

That plan appeared on track to sail through approval by Zoppo's all-Democratic

council. But the situation abruptly changed in November when voters elected Caggiano and an all-Republican council.

The sale agreement went to a council vote in mid-December, and the Republican team fractured. Caggiano and Councilor Sebastian Panioti argued for it, but the five other Republicans voted it down.

Caggiano and the city's economic development staff immediately appealed to Wheeler CEO Sabrina Trocchi to look at other sites

Turn to Wheeler, Page 2

Task force: Improve workforce diversity

Connecticut faces wave of state employee retirements

By Daniela Altamari
Hartford Courant

A legislative task force examining the impact of a looming wave of state employee retirements issued its final recommendations Tuesday.

The panel's proposals include making it easier for managerial employees to unionize and setting benchmarks to improve racial and gender diversity within the state workforce. The recommendations will be provided to the legislature for possible action during the upcoming session, which begins Thursday.

"I am really pleased at the product we have moving forward," said Rep. Robyn Porter, a Democrat from New Haven who co-chairs the panel. "This is not final," she added, noting that the legislature still must approve the proposals before any of them take effect.

The state is bracing for the possible retirement of up to a third of its workforce due to changes in collective bargaining agreements that provided incentives for longtime employees to retire.

Lawmakers are hoping that the turnover in employment will present an opportunity to diversify the state workforce. To that end, the panel is recommending goals to ensure that the workforce reflects the diversity of the state's overall population. To help meet those benchmarks, the task force is recommending that a chief diversity officer be appointed and report directly to the governor.

The task force also looked at the issue of state managers earning less and having less comprehensive benefit packages than the rank and file employees they are supervising. The panel is proposing to make it easier for those managerial employees to form a union.

The task force also is proposing that the state comptroller's office conduct an immediate assessment of the employees who are leaving by governmental branch and department.

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Cases back to pre-omicron benchmark

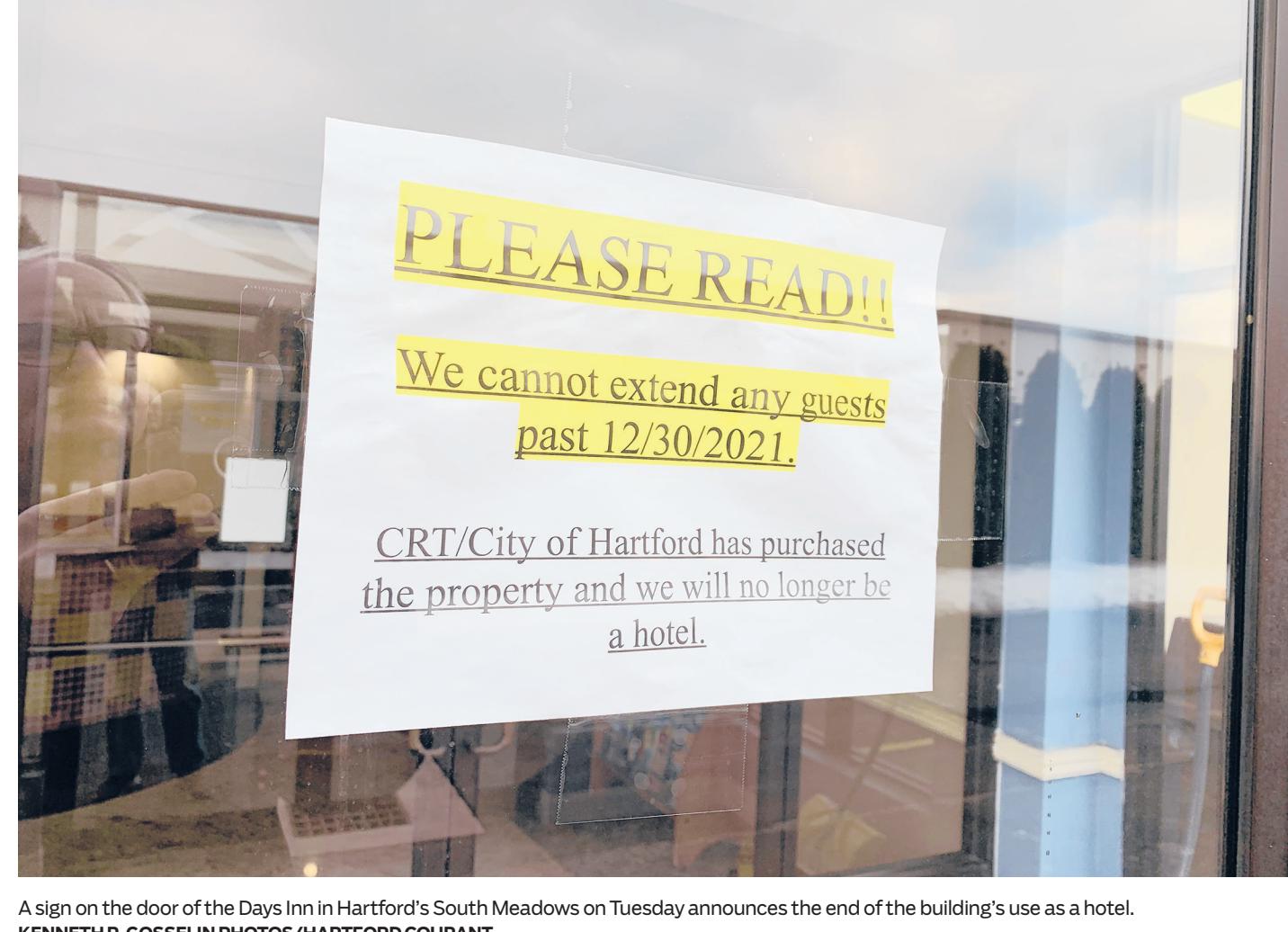
By Alex Puttermann
Hartford Courant

COVID-19 cases in Connecticut have returned to the level they were before the omicron variant began spreading in the state, official numbers show, though they remain higher than last summer and fall.

As of Wednesday, Connecticut's seven-day average of new COVID-19 cases stood at 1,178, lowest since Dec. 3, the day before the state reported its first omicron case.

Officials note that case counts do not include results from at-home tests,

Turn to Virus, Page 2



A sign on the door of the Days Inn in Hartford's South Meadows on Tuesday announces the end of the building's use as a hotel.
KENNETH R. GOSSELIN PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

BETTER DAYS AT THE INN

Former hotel in Hartford's South Meadows to become emergency shelter for men

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — An emergency shelter for men in downtown Hartford could open as early as this spring in a new location in the city's South Meadows but the shelter will keep the name it has had for more than three decades.

The Community Renewal Team, the longtime operator of the Stewart B. McKinney Men's Emergency Shelter on Huyslope Avenue, has purchased the former Days Inn hotel on Brainard



The former Days Inn in Hartford's South Meadows will become an emergency shelter for men.

Road for \$3.4 million and plans about \$1 million in renovations, said Lena Rodriguez, CRT's president and chief executive.

The hotel — near Hartford-Brainard Airport — will be more suited to the evolving thought that emerged during the pandemic around how best to help people experiencing homelessness, Rodriguez said.

With the onset of the coronavirus, shelters nationwide dispersed those in their care to hotels to separate them to stop the spread of COVID-19, Rodriguez said.

Turn to Shelter, Page 2

Puppy Bowl to have 6 rescue dogs from state



Lulu lives in Enfield.
ANIMAL PLANET

Halftime show to feature 32 kittens from East Hartford shelter

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Nutmeggers may not have a team in Super Bowl LVI, but they can roof-roof-roof for the home team during Puppy Bowl XVIII.

Six rescued dogs whose forever homes are in Connecticut are participating in Sunday's televised doggie football throwdown. The big game highlights the need

for animal adoption by offering the cutest-ever spoof of the Super Bowl.

It's an uneven playing field for in-state dogs. Five are on the side of Team Ruff, wearing orange scarves.

One is on the side of Team Fluff, wearing blue scarves. Under the watchful eye of "rufferees," they will frolic alongside 112 other dogs from 33 states.

Here's the lineup of the

Connecticut pooches. The Puppy Bowl will be shown at 2 p.m. Sunday on Animal Planet and Discovery Plus.

Lulu

Last September, Lulu was 10 weeks old. At the time she was named Bailey and her owners

Turn to Puppy Bowl, Page 2

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CONNECTICUT

Wheeler

from Page 1

in town while also negotiating small changes to the Centre Square proposal. Trocchi agreed, but warned that Wheeler had to decide on a location by mid-February — either in Bristol or elsewhere.

Wheeler agreed to modify the purchase so it would use a slightly smaller parcel, leaving a bigger space for taxable development, probably a mix

of retail, commercial or housing.

In the past month, Caggiano and others have been working behind the scenes to win over more Republican support, but as late as Tuesday said they were still uncertain how the vote would go.

"I'm still shaking my head at the naysayers," Caggiano said Wednesday. "Just a day before there were rumors that this was going to have a methadone clinic," he said.

While some opponents

argued that Wheeler would be taking up prime commercial property, Caggiano said an undertone for some opposition — especially on social media — was based on bias against Wheeler's mental health service.

"Unfortunately part of the discussion wasn't about Wheeler in the center of downtown, but about behavioral health. I think there are still some people who see a stigma about mental health," he said.

Caggiano noted that Wheeler's pediatric mental

health visits have more than doubled in the past two years, and praised its service to young people in and around Bristol.

"They're helping kids through a very tough mental health time," he said.

The regional chamber of commerce and the city's economic development commission endorsed the sale, and on Tuesday night the overwhelming majority of speakers who addressed the council supported it, too.

Ultimately, three Repub-

licans flipped their votes from December so that the sale passed 5-2. Only council members Susan Tyler and Jacqueline Olsen voted no.

Democrat Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller, an economic development commissioner and General Assembly candidate, said the city's new Republican council shouldn't have made Wheeler an issue.

"I am happy that the new administration has turned the corner and voted to approve this project. When

they took office in November, they were given this project on a silver platter. It only needed their vote and groundbreaking was tentatively planned," he said in a statement Wednesday.

Trocchi said that if there are no complications, the new building could be completed by spring of 2023.

"We were delighted to see more than a year of work, time, energy, and commitments come to fruition last night," Trocchi said in a statement.



Emily, left, and Dinozzo stand on the field during a previous Puppy Bowl. ANIMAL PLANET PHOTOS

Puppy Bowl

from Page 1

couldn't keep her. So they surrendered her to Pack Leaders of East Hartford.

Pack Leaders co-founder Tori Cateni knew a star when she saw one. She called Animal Planet and suggested adding the Pomeranian mix to the already cast Puppy Bowl. Lulu was accepted. Another dog was named Bailey, so she was renamed Lulu.

"That's her celebrity name. Now it's her forever name," Cateni said. Lulu has been adopted by a family in Enfield.

But Lulu isn't the only Pack Leaders pet who will be on TV.

"Our kittens are in the halftime show, 32 of them," Cateni said. Since the Puppy Bowl, all the kittens have been adopted by Hartford-area families. Cateni has worked with the Puppy Bowl for five years.

"It's an exciting thing to bring a fun awareness to all the breeds all these little cuties who can be adopted. It encourages people to find a local rescue organization," she said.

Luna

Luna first came to Danbury Animal Welfare Society when she was about a week old, with her mama, Francine. The two had just been transported to Connecticut from Morehead, Kentucky. It wasn't long after that that the big-eyed Beagle mix found a forever family in the Danbury area. Her family met her at a Yappy Hour at Michael's Taproom in Bethel, said Gina Amenta, director of operations at DAWS. Francine was taken in by another family.

It took Luna few minutes to warm up to the Puppy Bowl.

"She was a little shy at first. The next thing we know, she was trying to take the flag from the referee's pocket while he was busy with a big play another dog had made," Amenta said.

DAWS is one of 67 shelters around the country that are involved in this year's Puppy Bowl.

"The Puppy Bowl lets people know that if they plan on adding a four-legged friend to the family, they can go to the shelters rather than to the breeder or to a pet store," Amenta said.

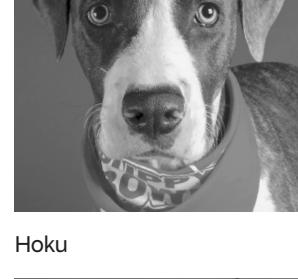
Scout-Augie

Timothy Strange of Thompson was looking for a pet for his elderly father and saw Scout at PAWS CT of Norwalk. He thought a frisky puppy would be too high-maintenance for his dad, but he couldn't resist adopting Scout himself.

"We had lost a couple dogs the previous summer. The dog we currently have was feeling lost without his buddies. It worked out. The puppy keeps the older dog active and the older dog teaches things to the puppy."



Luna



Hoku



Augie, formerly Scout



Sky

Strange said.

He renamed Scout Augie, actually Augustus, in honor of the month he was adopted.

Scout-Augie is a "super-mutt," Strange said, part American Staffordshire Terrier, boxer, German shepherd, Labrador retriever and Norwegian elkhound.

PAWS had arranged for the dog to be in the Puppy Bowl, so Strange took him to the taping in October in Glens Falls, New York.

"For us it was like being a stage mom," he said. "For him it was a glorious day of play."

Strange's father is now the happy companion of a cat.

Sky

Liz Bergen of Ridgefield, a volunteer at ROAR (Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue), brought Sky home as a foster puppy. Sky, who is part Australian cattle dog, liked Bergen's short-haired tabby cat, Everett.

"If a dog gets along with the cat, it's great. Sky and my cat played together. It's hard to get a puppy that is so calm she doesn't alarm cats or chase them," Bergen said.

Sky already had been claimed by a family, but the adopters backed out. "They changed their minds. At the time they filled out the application, she was 10 pounds. She had gotten up to 40. They wanted a smaller dog," she said.

So Bergen adopted Sky herself. "I just fell in love," she said.

Sky was born in Starkville, Mississippi. She and three of her littermates were rescued there and brought north to ROAR.

At the Puppy Bowl, Bergen said, Sky scored a "double touchdown," because she just kept running after scoring the first one. "She played until she dropped," she said.

Hoku

Hoku means "star" in Hawaiian. One of a litter of seven, Hoku is the first dog from Hawaii to appear in the Puppy Bowl. She now lives in the Norwalk home of Patrick and Maureen Shannon. The couple's daughter, who is the marketing

manager for Maui Humane Society, fostered the dog from eight weeks until October and talked her parents into adopting Hoku. It wasn't difficult to persuade them.

"We had a dog for 18 years and another for four years. We hadn't had a dog in eight years. We missed having a dog," Maureen Shannon said.

Hoku, a American Staffordshire Terrier-Catahoula Leopard Dog mix, filmed the Puppy Bowl in October, just before she came Connecticut to live with her forever family.

The Shannons took to the cute puppy right away, but her snuggly nature can be a bit of a challenge at times.

"When we got her, she was 35 pounds. Now she's about 70," Maureen Shannon said. "She thinks she's a lap dog. She thinks she's about 13 pounds."

Dewberry-Aspen

Dewberry was one of a litter of five puppies that was found dumped in a park in Texas. Two runners found the newborns, carried them a mile and a half to their car and took them to Shaggy Dog Rescue in Houston.

Those pups and several others were brought north by the nonprofit organization Rescue Road Trips. Ann Brookes of Cromwell, who has fostered dogs since 2016 in the hours she's not working as corporation counsel for Farrel Corp., got three: Dewberry, Raspberry and Ellington. All three are in the Puppy Bowl.

Dewberry, a tiny shih tzu-miniature poodle-chihuahua mix, is a cheerleader. Raspberry and Ellington play ball.

"Watch out for Ellington. He got five touchdowns and two field goals. You could be looking at the Most Valuable Pup," Brookes said.

Dewberry was adopted by a Stamford family, who renamed her Aspen. Raspberry was adopted by an Animal Planet volunteer after the Puppy Bowl shoot. Ellington now lives in New Jersey.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com

Virus

from Page 1

meaning the true number of cases is likely somewhat higher than official numbers show.

Connecticut's COVID-19 metrics have improved dramatically in recent weeks following a surge that began as the weather cooled in November and — exacerbated by omicron — killed more than 1,000 residents.

The state continues to have far more COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths than last summer, when the state at one point averaged as few as 40 daily cases.

according to state numbers.

Still, all eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Wednesday, Connecticut had 552 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, down 55 from Friday and down from nearly 2,000 at one point in January.

Hospital officials say some patients hospitalized with COVID-19 were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival but that a majority have significant COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the state, 49.3% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. Last week, the state reported 175 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 10,083.

COVID-19 deaths —

which typically tend to lag other metrics by several weeks — have begun to dip recently after increasing in December and January. Unvaccinated people in Connecticut have been about 15 times as likely to die from COVID-19 in recent weeks as those who are vaccinated, according to state numbers.

The United States has now recorded 910,716 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Monday, 93.1% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 77% of all residents and 81.2% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 52% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Alex Puttermann can be reached at aputtermann@courant.com.



The McKinney Shelter, at 34 Huyshope Ave. in Hartford's Sheldon/Charter Oak neighborhood, has served men experiencing homelessness for more than three decades. COURANT FILE PHOTO

Shelter

from Page 1

Shelter operators, however, also found it was a better arrangement to work with those seeking their help when there were fewer people in one location, Rodriguez said.

"It gives us an opportunity to care for people in a private setting as opposed to one big room, a congregate setting with beds all around," Rodriguez said. "We're able to treat people and serve them in a different way."

The city-owned McKinney Shelter building was located in a former firehouse in the old style of large rooms near the Colt complex. The building needed renovations, particularly to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Early in the pandemic, the shelter relocated to the Best Western hotel, also on Brainard Road, next to the Days Inn. About a year ago, CRT began negotiat-

ing to purchase the Days Inn, a deal it completed in December.

The project is being financed with a combination of funding from the state Department of Housing and the city.

Although the new shelter is outside the downtown area, Rodriguez said the former hotel is on a bus line.

Rodriguez said the converted hotel will have 78 beds, down from the previous 100, and — at least for the time being — will continue to solely shelter men.

There will be on-site mental and physical health services; adult education, job training programs and a commercial kitchen, Rodriguez said.

"The case management is much more intense and there's a great level of accountability on the part of the folks to work on goals that are set where we do provide case management," Rodriguez said. "And having people on site providing these services actually serves people

better."

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin said Tuesday he believes the new approach will be more effective in helping people experiencing homelessness get in transitional housing.

"Obviously during the pandemic, moving toward single or double rooms and away from congregate shelters had the advantage of being better and healthier," Bronin said. "But it also has the advantage of helping those we serve transition more effectively towards independence."

Bronin said the city is exploring new uses for the old firehouse.

Rodriguez said it was important for the McKinney name to come to the location in one form or another.

McKinney, a Connecticut congressman who died in 1987, championed what at the time was the first significant legislation to address homelessness.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

GOP's Levy declares for US Senate seat

By Mark Pazniokas

CT Mirror

Leora Levy, a Republican National Committee member from Greenwich, made a quiet entrance into the race for U.S. Senate on Tuesday, filing campaign papers with no broad public announcement.

Her candidacy was first reported by Hearst Connecticut Media.

In an interview Wednesday, Leora told the CT Mirror her campaign and beliefs are informed by her experience as a Cuban whose family fled the Castro regime in April 1960.

"It was two weeks after my third birthday. I just got my first tricycle. I remember vividly being told I could not bring my tricycle, nor my dog, to America," she said. "That was my first lesson in Communism."

Levy is running as a conservative on social and foreign-policy issues.

"I have had a passion to serve and to make

sure the United States of America never becomes a Communist country," she said.

Levy, 65, became a candidate 10 days after a campaign announcement by former House Minority Leader Themis Klarides, who was endorsed Tuesday by the Connecticut State Police Union.

Levy, a Trump supporter, was nominated as the U.S. ambassador to Chile in October 2019. Her nomination never came to a vote in the Senate.

She voted for a package of RNC resolutions Friday that included a censure of Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger and characterized the Jan. 6 riot as "legitimate political discourse."

Cheney and Kinzinger are the only Republicans on the congressional committee investigating the violent effort to halt the certification of Joe Biden as president.

Levy said the package included a China



reparations demand that she co-sponsored.

Connecticut's other two RNC members, John Frey and Ben Proto, told the CT Mirror they voted against the Jan. 6 resolution and censure, which was denounced by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and other Senate Republicans.

Levy said she does not share Trump's view that the election of President Joe Biden was illegitimate, but she viewed the congressional investigation of Jan. 6 as unconstitutional.

The rioters should be tried in the courts, she said.

Cheney and Kinzinger, she said, are accomplices to a Democratic vendetta. She objected to Congress issuing subpoenas to individuals who did not actively participate in the assault.

The subpoenas have gone to individu-

als who may have knowledge of Trump's actions or inactions on Jan. 6, as well as those who planned the assault.

Levy brings national fundraising contacts to the race but little experience as a candidate. She failed last summer to win the GOP nomination for state Senate in a special election won by Republican Ryan Fazio.

The Republican nominee will face Democrat Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat seeking his third term in the Senate.

Klarides announced her candidacy Jan. 30 on WTNH without a campaign organization in place. She created a campaign committee on Feb. 6.

Peter Lumaj, the Republican nominee for secretary of the state in 2014 and a gubernatorial candidate who failed to qualify for the primary in 2018, also is running with a claim as being the most conservative.

Two other Republicans, John Flynn and Robert Hyde, also have campaign committees.

Survivor of double shooting improves

Both of this week's homicide victims in Hartford were recent Windsor graduates

By Christine Dempsey

Hartford Courant

The condition of the woman who was critically injured during a deadly double shooting Monday in Hartford has improved, police said Wednesday.

Lt. Aaron Boisvert said the woman is doing better, and that the hospital listed her condition as stable.

Detectives continue to work the case, Boisvert said, and are trying to determine what led to the killing of Allison McCoy, 21 — the city's third homicide victim this year.

"Can't speak to motive," Boisvert said. "We can't rule out anything at this point."

McCoy was fatally shot when she was in bed with the woman shortly before 2:30 a.m. in McCoy's apartment at 16 Evergreen Ave.

Both women were shot multiple times, police said.

The survivor called 911, but when first responders arrived, McCoy was dead, according to police.

Fewer than 18 hours earlier, another victim in his 20s was fatally shot in the city.

Police said the two shootings do not appear to be related.

First responders found Tyrik Walcott, 20, of Windsor, had a gunshot wound when he was pulled out of a crashed car on Bellevue Street about 8:45 a.m. Sunday, police said. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. Police said the shooting did not appear to be random.

Both McCoy and Walcott graduated from Windsor High School.

McCoy was a member of the Class of 2018 at Windsor High, where she played basketball, said interim Principal Breon Parker.

Walcott was a member of the Class of 2019. He played both basketball and football, Parker said.

"Both had vivacious personalities and were very popular," Parker said. "It's always tough when you see young people lose their lives."

McCoy's mother, Stephanie Howard, started a GoFundMe fundraiser to raise money for the funeral, saying her daughter did not have life insurance.

One donor, who identified themselves as a teacher at Windsor High, called McCoy a "natural leader."

Another said McCoy was tough but also had a sense of humor.

"Her resilience was unmatched, no mountain was too high for her to climb. She was strength, she was faith, she was hope all in one," the person wrote. "Her smile would brighten any day, and her jokes would turn any bad situation to a laugh instantly."

Criminal court records show that both McCoy and Walcott had been charged with weapons violations, but neither had been convicted.

McCoy was charged in September by East Hartford police with third-degree assault, threatening and carrying a pistol without a permit, court records show. The case was scheduled to be resolved in December 2022.

Walcott had two weapons cases pending in Hartford court, a 2019 charge of carrying a pistol without a permit and a 2021 charge of illegal possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle, according to the records.

The first homicide of the year in Hartford also claimed the life of a young adult. Kendall Fair, 22, of West Hartford was killed in one of two bursts of North End gunfire that happened minutes apart. Police suspect those shootings are connected.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.



Bakery owner Naima Craft gravitated toward baking because of its precision. She started baking out of her Bloomfield home but has recently moved into a 2,480-square-foot location in East Granby. **CRAFT ARTISANAL BAKERY PHOTOS**

Craft Artisanal Bakery rises in East Granby site

By Susan Dunne

Hartford Courant

In 2019, Naima Craft was a physical therapist with Hartford HealthCare, specializing in patients with concussions and vertigo. Now she brings people a sense of well-being in a different way — by baking artisan breads and pastries from her new storefront in East Granby.

The Craft Artisanal Bakery opened in December at 10 East St. The new 2,480-square-foot location is a notable upgrade from Craft's 150-square-foot stall in Hartford's Swift Factory, which she occupied starting October 2020 but quickly outgrew.

She had started with a cottage permit, baking as a side job out of her Bloomfield home, "but it got to the point I just had to do it full-time."

The latest store is spacious and cozy, its decor emphasizing fresh-cut trees and bark to reflect Craft's love of Vermont.

"We wanted to give it a homey, cozy bed-and-breakfast feel," Craft says. Imperfectly shaped tables are high-top and booths. In the booths are classic family games.

"I appreciate people who come and buy the baked goods, but the whole place is designed to lounge and enjoy," she says.

Craft grew up in San Juan, Trinidad. At age 12 her grandmother gave her a hand mixer. She loved it.

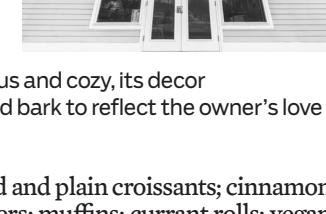
"I would make cakes and package them and sell them at my mother's office by the slice," Craft says.

She came to the United States to attend University of Hartford. She earned a bachelor's and then returned to get a doctorate in physical therapy. She graduated in 2010.

Her work was satisfying but she kept going back to cooking. "I just love to eat. One of the best experiences someone can have is a good, soul-satisfying meal," she says.

She gravitated toward baking because of its precision. "You have to be incredibly accurate in the measurements. It's less forgiving than cooking," she says. "When you're cooking, you can add a pinch of this and a dash of that and it's OK. You can't do that when you're baking."

From Wednesday to Friday, The Craft offers bagel flavors of plain, everything, sesame, poppyseed, cheddar, asiago and cinnamon sugar; loaves of sourdough, country boule, Italian, croissant



Craft Artisanal Bakery is spacious and cozy, its decor emphasizing fresh-cut trees and bark to reflect the owner's love of Vermont.

and challah; chocolate, almond and plain croissants; cinnamon rolls; apple and cherry turnovers; muffins; currant rolls; vegan cookies; brownies; and a variety of coffees and teas. Craft also makes a full-sized loaf of bread from croissant dough.

She saves "the wow factor" for weekends, when she makes specialty items like financiers made from fresh blackberries, mini caramel tartlets, and, for Valentine's Day, heart-shaped brownies.

Everything is baked fresh every morning. Any pastries and breads left over at the end of the day are given to the town's first responders.

"I worked closely with them when I was in health care. I appreciate what they do and I want to give back to the municipality," she says.

When the labor and supply-chain issues ease, Craft plans to expand her offerings. She is still waiting for her kitchen hood.

"I ordered and paid for it in August. I hear now it'll be here in March," she says. When it comes, she will begin offering donuts and breakfast sandwiches.

And when she is fully staffed, Craft plans to offer classes.

"We will offer cookie decorating, cupcake decorating, working with dough, cooking with yeast," she says. "I'll teach how to make croissants, give everyone one to take home and we will eat some there. That's the best part."

The Craft, 10 East St. in East Granby, is open Wednesday to Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekends 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. thecraftexperience.store.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Police: Ax-wielding intruder injures man in Naugatuck home

By Christine Dempsey

Hartford Courant

An ax-wielding intruder who police said slipped into a Naugatuck home over the weekend and attacked the occupants has been arrested. It is one of at least two violent, domestic-related home invasions reported in the state this week.

Steven Mark Pelletier, 53, of Salem Street in Naugatuck was found in a Waterbury hotel after the Sunday intrusion and charged with home invasion, first-degree assault, disorderly conduct and second-degree threatening. He was in custody at New Haven Correctional Center on \$260,000 bail after his arraignment Monday, prison records show.

According to police, residents of the home called them Saturday when a large rock was thrown through the picture window.

The person who had thrown the rock fled before an officer arrived, but police suspect Pelletier.

Police said they were again called about 2 a.m. Sunday when an intruder police say was Pelletier got into the house through the basement armed with a large wooden ax and clashed with residents. One resident was able to call 911 despite Pelletier's efforts to keep the victims from calling for help.

The ax was taken from Pelletier during the struggle, police said, but he "then proceeded to grab several knives from the kitchen and began throwing them at both victims," police said in a news release. Pelletier left.

A man was cut on his hand and had to be taken to the hospital.

The home invasion is one of at least two intrusions in Connecticut stemming from domestic violence in recent days. On Monday, a man burst into a Newington

motel, threw an object at a woman, injuring her, and stabbed a man 13 times, police said.

Like Naugatuck, Newington police also made an arrest the same day.

Naugatuck police said victims of domestic violence should not hesitate to call for help.

"No person should have the safety of their home and person violated," they said. "If you or anyone you know is in a domestic violence relationship and needs assistance, please know that there are resources throughout the state to assist you and NPD is always here."

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence says those who need help or just someone to talk to, should visit CTSafeConnect.org or call or text 888-774-2900. Advocates are available 24/7.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Singles Calendar

DANCES

50's, 60's, 70's DANCE
FRI. Feb. 11th • 7-11 PM
FANTASTIC BUFFET 7-8 PM
\$20 w/ad • DJ/Cadillac Jack
• Dress Casual • Door Prizes
• 22 ADMISSION
• BRISTOL POLISH CLUB, 541 North Main Street, Bristol, CT
• SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, LLC • 860-463-6906



To advertise your singles event please call or email Lori at 860-647-5363 • lpkul@courant.com

Everyone Is Invited To A VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0088-0196 & 0088-0197

Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 04247 carrying High Street and B&M Railroad & Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 04246 carrying Washington Street over Route 72 in the City of New Britain

Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project.

Please join us on Thursday, February 24, 2022

The meeting will be live streamed via: Microsoft Teams Live Event and YouTube Live

Formal Presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

Instructions on how to access the meeting and on how to provide comments or ask questions, can be found at the project webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTNewBritain88-196-7>

The Virtual Public Information Meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. Persons with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them by contacting Alvaro Garcia Jr., P.E. by email at alvaro.garcia@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 594-3353, allow one week for processing and delivery. Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling 1-888-566-5916 and entering the Participant Code when prompted: 9977843. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). The MS Teams Live Event offers closed captioning for the hearing impaired and non-English translation options. A recording of the formal presentation will be posted to YouTube following the event and closed captioning (including non-English translation options) will be available at that time. The recording will also be available in the list of DOT virtual public meetings here: <https://portal.ct.gov/dot/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library>

Visit the project webpage for options for Apple users. During the Q&A session and the 14-day comment period that follows the meeting, individuals may leave a question or comment via email (preferred) at DOTProject88-196-7@ct.gov. Individuals may also leave a voicemail question or comment by calling (860) 944-1111, please reference the project in your voicemail.

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF NATHANIA IRENE Tooker, Late of New Sharon ME (22-0032)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 4, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Melonie Tooker
c/o EDWARD McDermott Cassella, Cloutier & Cassella, LLC, 29 Elm Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

2/10/22 7146064

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Donald W. Capellaro, Late of Westbrook, AKA Donald William Capellaro (22-0044)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 7, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Robert A. Glass, III
c/o CYNTHIA JEAN GRIFFITH, SULLIVAN, GRIFFITH & BEATTY, LLP, 705 BOSTON POST ROAD, GUILFORD, CT 06437

2/10/22 7146333

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Shirley Tanner, Late of Essex, AKA Shirley Mck. Tanner (22-0064)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 7, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Brooks Mck. Tanner (22-0064)
c/o MATTHEW ANTHONY BOVINO, DAVIDSON DAWSON AND CLARK LLP, 18 LOCUST AVENUE, 2ND FL, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840

2/10/22 7146152

TOWN OF ESSEX SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2022 MEETING ROOM A

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8497663155?pwd=RGTsMl5cVzdzQjVnb0V>

Meeting ID: 849 7663 1555, Passcode: 216452

Dial +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Town Meeting will be held in and for the Town of Essex, Connecticut, Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:55 pm in the Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue in said Essex.

TO ACT AND CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

1. To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of one (1) member to the Economic Development Commission.

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2022 at Essex, CT

2/10/2022 7146246

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF John Walter Wells, Late of Old Saybrook, AKA John W. Wells III (22-0058)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 7, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Colin Wells, 4008 Kipling Ave., Edina, MN 55416
2/10/22 7146311

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

REPLACEMENT OF MAIN STREET
BRIDGE
OVER WHIGVILLE BROOK (BRIDGE NO.
020006)
BURLINGTON, CONNECTICUT
STATE PROJECT No. 3020-0006

The Town of Burlington, Connecticut is seeking sealed bids for furnishing all labor, tools, materials and equipment required for the Replacement of Main Street Bridge Over Whigville Brook (Bridge No. 020006). Bids will be received by the Town of Burlington, CT, 200 Spielman Highway, Burlington, CT 06013 until 10:00am, local time, on Monday, March 7, 2022. The bids will be publicly opened and read at the Town Hall, Auditorium, 200 Spielman Highway, Burlington, CT 06013 at 10:00am.

Plans and Specifications for the above project may be examined and/or obtained at Advanced Reprographics, 50 Corporate Avenue, Plainville, CT 06062, (860) 410-1020. Plans and Specifications may be viewed and/or obtained by going to the Advanced Reprographics website www.advancedrepro.net. Prospective bidders should access the "Planroom" on the website and go to the "Public Jobs" area, no log in information is necessary. Plans and specifications may be picked up at the Advanced Reprographics office. Plans and specifications may also be ordered by calling the Advanced Reprographics number listed above. Bidders are responsible for all printing costs and shipping costs, as applicable.

CONTRACTOR SHALL BE PRE-QUALIFIED BY THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR GROUP NO. 8 - MINOR BRIDGES CONSTRUCTION OR GROUP NO. 8A - BOX CULVERS. Form 818 Standard Specifications and Supplements. Specifications may be obtained via the Connecticut Department of Transportation's website: <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?fa=3609&sq=430362>. All Proposals must be on the form furnished by the Town of Burlington and must be requested for the above-named project. Each Bidder must deposit with his/her a certified check, or a bid bond, for not less than five percent (5%) of the bid as provided in the Information for Bidders.

THIS CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO STATE SET-ASIDE AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The attention of the Bidders is called to the requirement for minimum wage rates to be paid under this Contract.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items, or to not bid, to waive any informality or technical defect, if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Burlington.

No Bidder may withdraw their bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

CONTRACTORS that find discrepancies and/or errors in or between plans, specifications, quantities and other matters, must immediately notify Scott Tharau, Director of Public Works, 200 Spielman Highway, Burlington, CT 06013 or at tharau@burlingtonct.us in writing not less than ten days before the scheduled bid opening.

2/10/22 7146280

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I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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COUNCIL



CELEBRITIES

Williams wants to express joy with ad

From news services

Serena Williams is normally the one participating in a major championship matchup, but the seven-time Wimbledon winner will look forward to watching the Super Bowl on Sunday along with her commercial.

"It's always good to see other athletes just go out and do their thing on such a big stage," she said. "I've been on the big stage so many times, it's so cool to experience other athletes being on that stage."

Along with watching the Bengals-Rams game, Williams will be on the lookout for her Super Bowl ad. The tennis great stars in a Michelob ULTRA commercial along with several other superstar athletes such as Peyton Manning, Jimmy Butler and Nneka Ogwuemeke for a competitive game of bowling.

Williams' commercial is part of Michelob's three-ad series. She wants it to express the meaning of joy.

"It's critical for us to continue to have that," said Williams.

"I believe a big factor in success is joy," she continued. "I go back and look at the tournaments that I've invested — like the ones I've never lost a set in — I was so joyful."

Adele nabs 3 prizes at Brit Awards

Awards: Adele made a return to live performance and won three prizes at the Brit Awards in London on Tuesday, weeks after she canceled a string of shows in Las Vegas.

The north London-born diva was named artist of the year at the U.K.'s leading music prizes. She also took home the album of the year prize, for "30," and won song of the year for "Easy on Me."

Adele delighted the audience at London's O2 Arena, sitting on a piano in a golden gown to sing



Serena Williams, seen Nov. 14, stars in a Michelob ad airing during Sunday's Super Bowl. **JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISON**

"I Drink Wine." It was her first performance since she called off a Caesar's Palace residency in January, citing delivery delays and coronavirus illness in her crew.

Thousands of music fans watched other live performances from acts including Ed Sheeran and former Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher.

American teen star Olivia Rodrigo took the international song trophy for "Good 4 U" and Billie Eilish was named best international artist. London alternative band Wolf Alice won the group of the year prize, while superduo Silk Sonic was named international group of the year. Sheeran took Brit Award for best songwriter. British singer-songwriter Holly Humberstone took the rising star award.

Schneider quits job: "Jeopardy!" champion Amy Schneider said she's quitting her day job after her record-breaking run.

"Some of you may have heard, but I quit my day job yesterday!" the now former software engineer manager, 42, wrote on Twitter Tuesday. "It's a bit nerve-wracking to pivot from software engineer to ... public figure, I guess?"

With 40 consecutive wins and nearly \$1.4 million in prize money, Schneider is the second longest running contestant in "Jeopardy!" history and its most successful female player. She's also the first trans person to qualify for the show's "Tournament of Champions."

Feb. 10 birthdays: Actor Robert Wagner is 92. Singer Roberta Flack is 85. TV host George Stephanopoulos is 61. Actor Laura Dern is 55. Actor Elizabeth Banks is 48. Singer Don Omar is 44. Actor Uzo Aduba is 41. Actor Stephanie Beatriz is 41. Actor Trevante Rhodes is 32. Actor Emma Roberts is 31. Actor Yara Shahidi is 22.

Ralph ready for sitcom 'Abbott Elementary' to have a long life

By Amy S. Rosenberg

The Philadelphia Inquirer

It was 20 years ago, Sheryl Lee Ralph recalled, when Pennsylvania State Sen. Vincent Hughes gave the actor a gift in a not quite robin's egg blue box with a white bow that began their love story.

Like a punchline from "Abbott Elementary," Quinta Brunson's Philadelphia-centric ABC sitcom on which Ralph plays the all-knowing kindergarten teacher Barbara Howard, the gift was ... a Pennsylvania almanac. Cue one of those deadpan reactions to the unseen mockumentary cameras that follow the teachers at Abbott, the underfunded fictional public school that has captivated the nation.

"Inside of it he had written: 'So you will know more about all the things I truly love,'" said Ralph, 66, who was nominated for a Tony in 1982 for her role as Deena Jones in the original "Dreamgirls" on Broadway.

"I was so fascinated that this man," — her husband since 2005 — "wanted me to know right off the get-go that, 'I am all about my state, and I love my city!'"

Now, as the already iconic, always freshly manicured, regal Mrs. Howard on the breakout show, Ralph is finally wielding some Philadelphia cred of her own.

Ralph's career is going into its fifth decade, from the star turn 40 years ago on Broadway in "Dreamgirls," through roles in "Moesta," "Ray Donovan," "Sister Act 2" and, most recently, as a producer of the Broadway play "Thoughts of a Colored Man."

To be suddenly in the midst of a hit sitcom is something else altogether, as magical as an instant Broadway smash.



Lisa Ann Walter, left, and Sheryl Lee Ralph portray teachers in the series "Abbott Elementary." **GILLES MINGASSON/ABC**

Ralph said.

"When we did "Dreamgirls," we knew immediately that people loved us, by the way they stood up and applauded, lined up around the block for tickets," she said. "With this, as soon as the show is coming on, social media starts hitting right away. ... As soon as the show is over, they're talking about this, they're laughing about this. So when I heard the numbers are quadrupling, it's just like, 'Wow. This is amazing!'"

The cast is indelible, from Howard's effortless teaching and ethereal self-assuredness to Brunson's overeager, earnest teacher Janine Teagues, to comedian Janelle James' hilariously narcissistic principal Ava Coleman, to the South Philly teacher Melissa Schemmenti, played by Lisa Ann Walter, whose lovely friendship and bonding with Howard as the "oldheads" at Abbott is an ongoing plot line.

Ralph originally wanted to play Ava, the principal, she said.

"When I first read the script and was speaking to Quinta, I loved the role of the principal," she said. "To break out of what people would normally expect of me, and I said, 'Yes, let me do that.' And

she said, 'Absolutely not. We need a queen for Barbara Howard, and you are that queen.'

"We need the wisdom that you will bring to this character. We need you to show women that they're not long suffering in this job, it is their passion, and that passion has turned into that power."

As a tough-love but supportive mentor on the show to Brunson's Janine, Ralph said the generational-bonding dynamic between the two women resonates off-screen.

"Whenever I'm around Quinta, she always likes to just sit next to me, and just look at me," Hughes said. "There's a way she'll reach out and just touch me. And it's just such a great feeling. Or she'll write something, you know, and say, 'Sheryl what do you think about this? And I'm just like, 'God, I just love it!'"

Ralph says she is ready for "Abbott Elementary" to have a long life, like "Grey's Anatomy" long.

"Actors pray for one hit," she said. "I have been very, very blessed to go from 'Dreamgirls' to 'It's a Living' to 'Moesta,' 'Sister Act 2,' 'Ray Donovan,' 'Abbott Elementary,' so many other things in between. I'm like, 'Yes, this is the big hit right here.'"

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

You're likely to recognize the value of your old friends. There's a reason why they're still around! It can be tiring getting to know new people and all their quirks. Knowing what to expect can be comforting.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Balancing your work and personal lives can be easier than usual today. The trick is showing others how dependable you can be. It isn't that you aren't usually reliable, but sometimes when people do their jobs quietly, no one notices their work. Wanting to be seen is natural!

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

You're just going through the motions. Some of your ideas have been around for so long. Consider taking a closer look at your belief system. While you may decide that those philosophies do still suit you, you might realize you aren't that person anymore instead. Make changes. Have more confidence.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

Dealing with money issues that involve someone else might not be too complicated. You could make a better deal than usual by focusing on the details. Paying up earlier than you originally planned could make a difference. Perhaps you don't owe quite as much as you thought.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

This is an ideal time to deal with minor issues at home. Thoughts spin around your head about things that need doing. Contrary to what you may think, it will likely be easier to deal with them than it would to try and avoid them. They probably won't go away if you just ignore them!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

You may enjoy spending time by yourself. You might not be trying to avoid anything, so feel free to simply exist in your own space and contemplate your own thoughts.

Finding calm time like this can be difficult in this busy world, so it would be wise to take full advantage of it.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Young couple struggles to share expenses

Dear Amy: My boyfriend just graduated from college. I am working and looking for better work, while juggling college classes and living on my own in an expensive town.

We've always been loose about sharing expenses and just generally take turns paying for things.

After a series of unfortunate events (unexpected car repairs and subsequent unemployment), I'm at a low! On the other hand, now that he's out of school, my boyfriend is making good money. He is also receiving gifts amounting to thousands of dollars from family members.

He expressed he was happy to help me through this financial hardship, but recently he's been stingy about sharing expenses.

For example, he was reluctant to split the cost of a \$1.99 jar of lemon juice because it was going to stay at my house.

He reminds me to Venmo him for little things like coffees and sandwiches. Meanwhile, I definitely spend more money on him in little ways that he doesn't realize — and I haven't cared one bit.

I feel uncomfortable confronting him and demanding he be more generous, even though I feel like I'm spending more of my limited funds on us and haven't complained.

The real issue is that I am hurt that he's not willing to be more generous, while I've always been happily generous. I'm not sure how to confront this issue and don't want my resentment to build up and get in the way of how much I love him.

— Financially Hurt Student

Dear Student: I would like to tell you that this is a simple matter of communication and negotiation, but generosity is a quality that is hard to quantify. Generosity is not dependent on income. It is about being kind toward others.

You are generous toward your boyfriend, and he is not generous toward you. His refusal to kick in \$1 toward the cost of a consumable because it will reside in your refrigerator might be a very costly savings for him in the long run, because it could cost him the relationship.

Talking about finances is hard to do, but navigating through this will be an important task.

Do not approach this as a confrontation, but a conversation. Mention that you've noticed tension around this topic and ask him what his expectations are regarding splitting expenses. Hear him out, don't get emotional, and play close attention to what he says.

And then — pay close attention to what he does.

Keep in mind that it is not only important to love someone, but you have to like them, too.

Dear Amy: I've been with my partner "J" for several years. We are both happy and healthy — one of our best qualities is that we are really honest with each other. This has helped us through good times and bad.

My problem is that early on in our exclusive relationship, I kissed an ex.

Honestly, it meant nothing to me. Furthermore, I believe it actually helped me to commit completely to J. This kiss provided that

moment for me.

I am struggling with an impulse to tell my partner. I've felt guilty about it over the years, and I think I'd feel better if I unb burdened myself. Your advice?

— A

Dear A: You need to ask yourself the perennially perfect question: "What good would come of this?"

The way you describe it, confessing would unburden you. The way I see it is that you would mainly be transferring the burden from you to your partner.

What good would come of that?

Dear Amy: "C" wrote to you, saying she is in love with a sex offender.

I wonder if C has children? I wonder if she's prepared to be excluded from every family gathering that includes children? Because she will be.

She should also be prepared for exclusion from neighborhood gatherings, or really any group activities, once her neighbors discover the identity of her partner.

She should also consider that she's being lied to about the circumstances; sex offenders are notoriously gifted manipulators.

— Concerned

Dear Concerned: "C's" letter raised a number of serious red flags. She had already lost friends and family members due to this relationship.

You've raised a few more — and thank you.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 10, 1763: Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War.

In 1936: Nazi Germany's Reichstag passed a law investing the Gestapo

secret police with absolute authority, exempt from any legal review.

In 1959: a major tornado tore through the St. Louis area, killing 21 people.

In 1989: Ron Brown was elected the first Black chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

In 1992: "Roots" author Alex Haley died at age 70.

In 2005: North Korea boasted publicly for the first time that it possessed nuclear weapons.

In 2015: Jon Stewart announced he would step down as host of "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central later in the year.

In 2020: Britain declared the new coronavirus a "serious and imminent threat to public health."

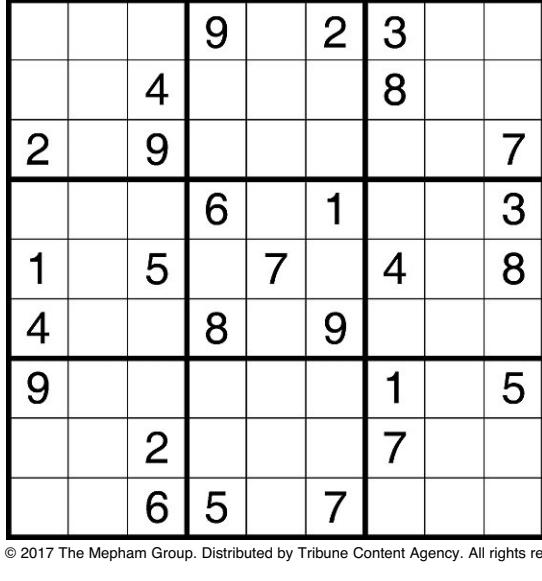
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at PlayJumble.com



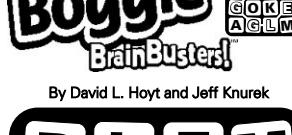
Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

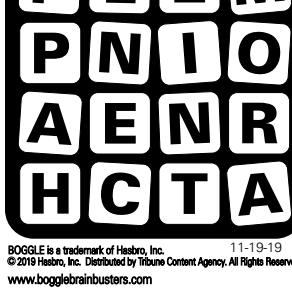


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BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once. You may repeat words in adjacent boxes and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point 1151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points 101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points 61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points 31-60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points 21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points 11-20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points 0-10 = Try again

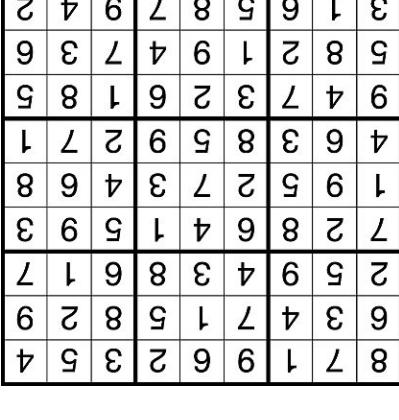
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE FRUITS in the grid of letters.

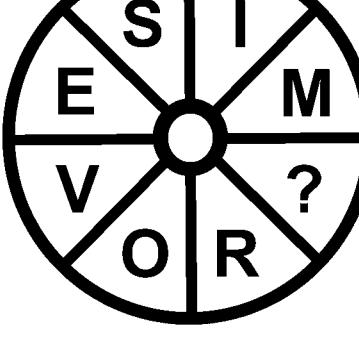
11-19-19
LIME PEACH LEMON APPLE MELON NECTARINE
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Level: **1 2 3 4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



WordWheel

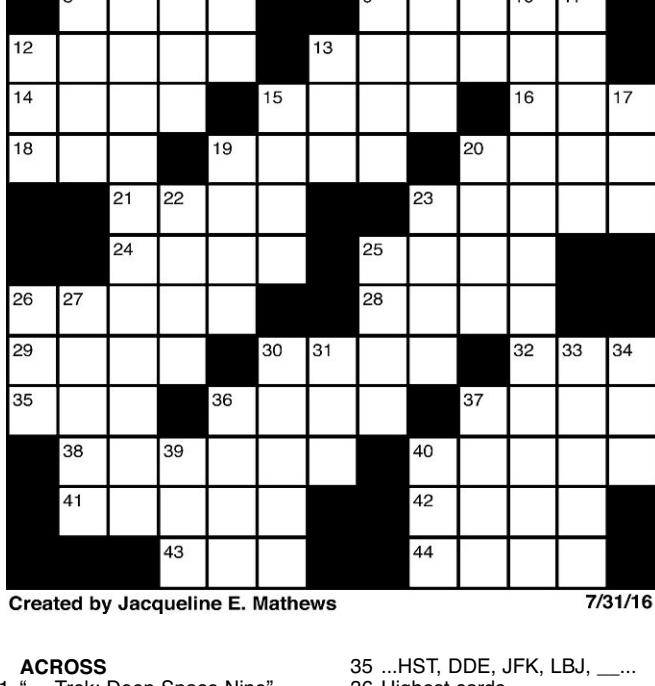


Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



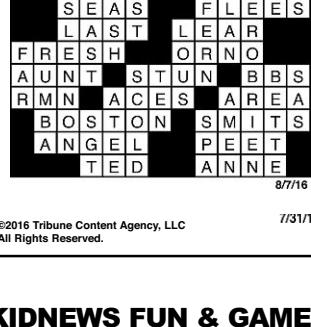
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/31/16

ACROSS
1 "Trek: Deep Space Nine"
5 "in the Family"
8 "The Prize Winner of Defiance, ___"; Woody Harrelson movie
9 Opinions
12 "Blades of ___"; Will Ferrell film
13 Jake Gyllenhaal mystery movie
14 Skirt edges
15 "Clark: The New Adventures of Superman"
16 "___ & Order"
18 "Love ___ Many Splendored Thing"
19 "The ___ Wife"
20 Gillette disposable razor
21 "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven ___"; animated film
23 Escapes
24 "Man Standing"
25 Producer Norman ___
26 "Off the Boat"
28 "Deal ___ Deal"
29 Em or Bee
30 Astonish
32 Pellets for some air guns

35 ...HST, DDE, JFK, LBJ, ___
36 Highest cards
37 Region
38 Setting for "Cheers"
40 Jimmy ___ of "NYPD Blue"
41 "Touched by an ___"
42 Actress Amanda ___
43 Koppel or Knight
44 Actress Heche

DOWN
1 Shoe bottoms
2 Actor on "The Odd Couple"
3 Broadcasts
4 Rogers or Clark
5 Stay away from
6 Tupperware covers
7 Neckwear for Don Ho
10 Role on "Scorpion"
11 Frighten
12 DEF followers
13 "We Bought a ___"; Matt Damon movie
15 "Raiders of the ___ Ark"; blockbuster Harrison Ford movie
17 "How the West ___ Won"
19 Deep long cut
20 Role on "Two and a Half Men"
22 Krakatoa: ___ of Java"
23 Plant with fronds
25 Costello and Ferrigno
26 "A Bridge Too ___"; movie for Sean Connery
27 Dance from Cuba
30 Bawl out
31 "The Whole ___ Yards"; movie for Bruce Willis
33 Davis or Midler
34 Scandinavia's flagship airline
36 To ___; exactly
37 Sherman Hemsley sitcom
39 "___ Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"
40 Jacuzzi



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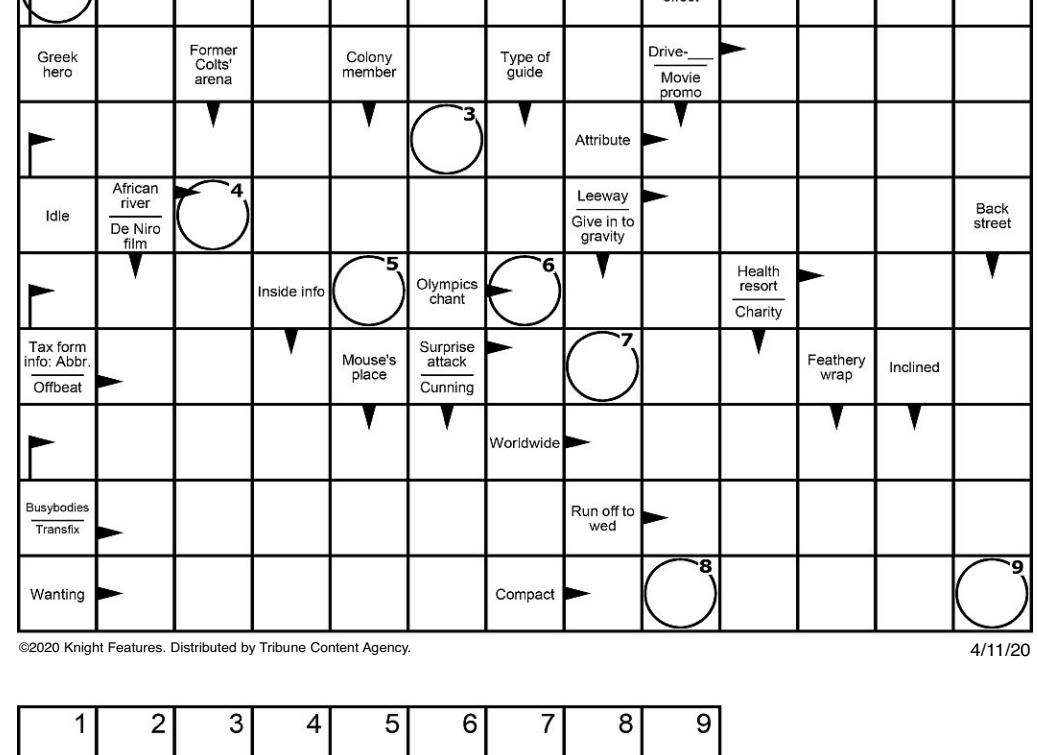
Beats



S A N C T U A R Y

ARROW WORDS

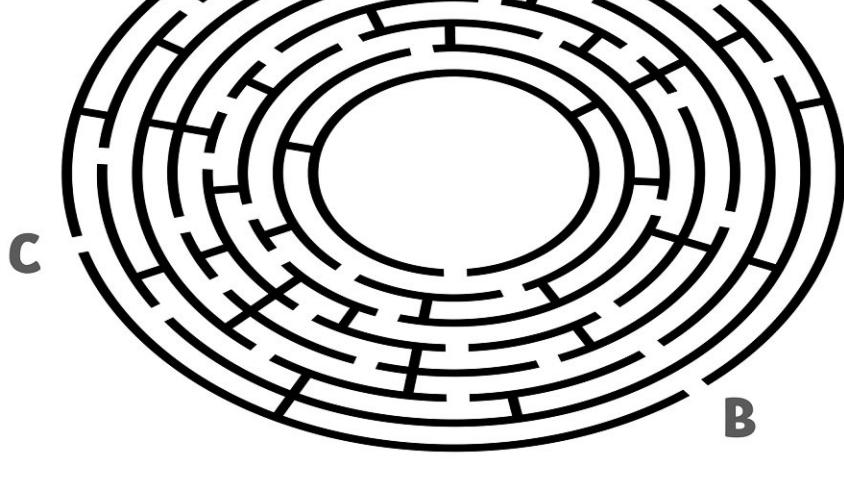
Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: Beatles

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



ABBEY ROAD HEY JUDE PAUL SHOUT
APPLE I FEEL FINE PENNY LANE SITAR
BEATLEMANIA JOHN PETE BEST SIXTIES
CAVERN CLUB LADY MADONNA REVOLVER STUDIO
DAY TRIPPER LET IT BE RINGO WHITE ALBUM
FAB FOUR LIVERPOOL RUBBER SOUL YESTERDAY
GEORGE LOVE ME DO SGT PEPPER YOKO ONO
GET BACK LOVELY RITA SHE LOVES YOU
HAMBURG MBE MICHELLE SHEA STADIUM

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JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUHDO

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PUSOY

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

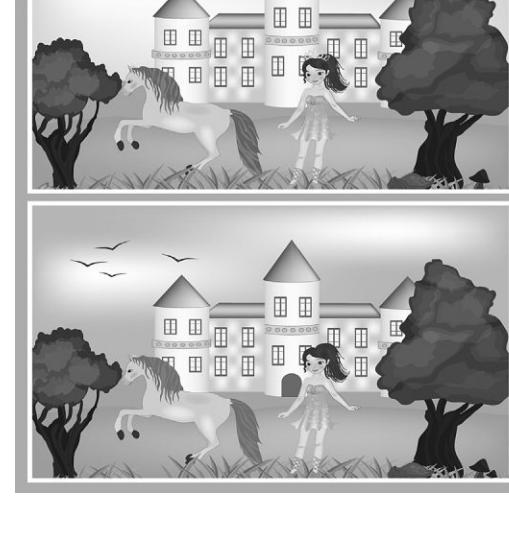


Check out the new JUST JUMBLE app
Let me change that mic. It's picking up too much static.
Here you go.
WHEN THE PRODUCER TOLD HIM HE NEEDED TO SWITCH MICROPHONES, HE SAID —

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

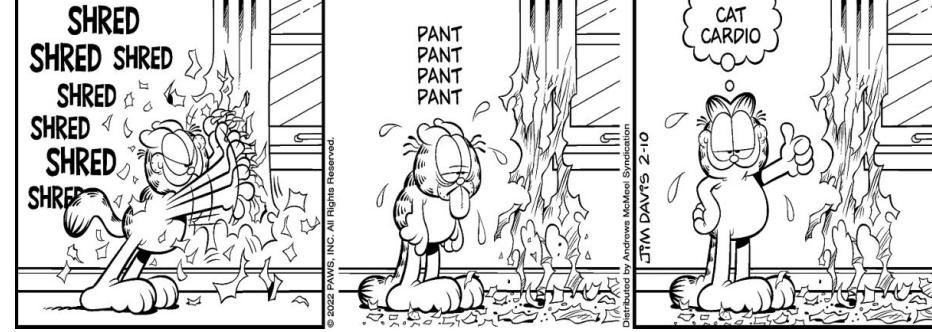
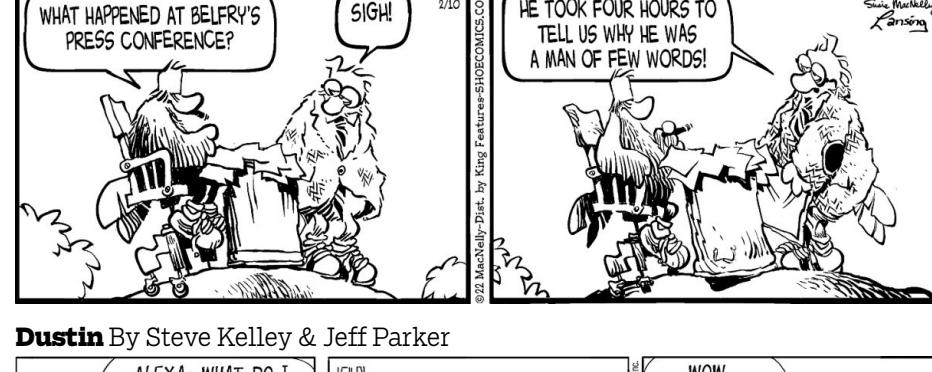
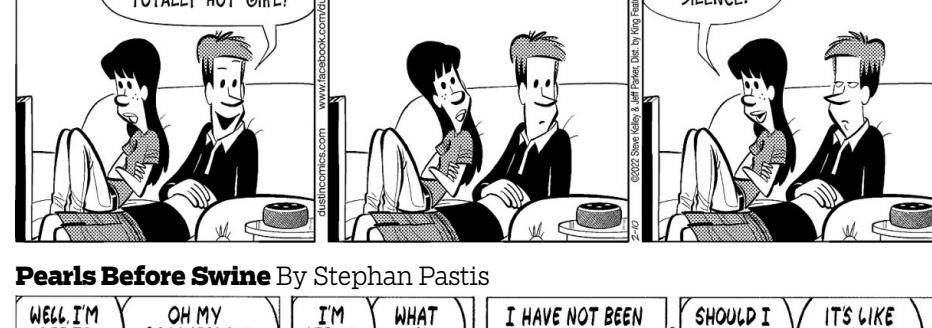
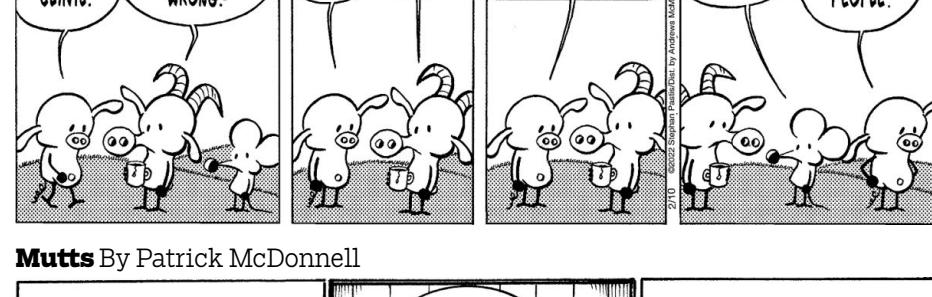
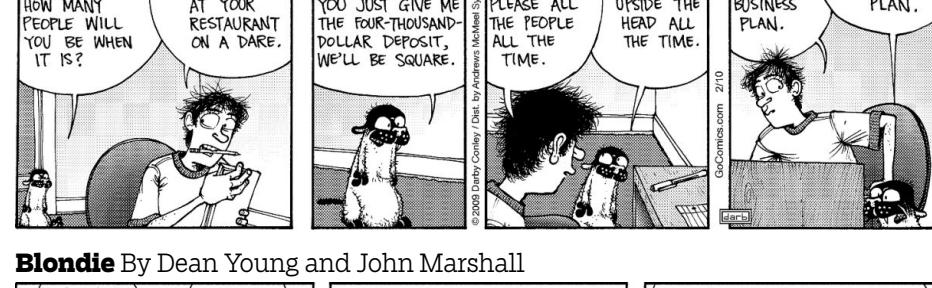
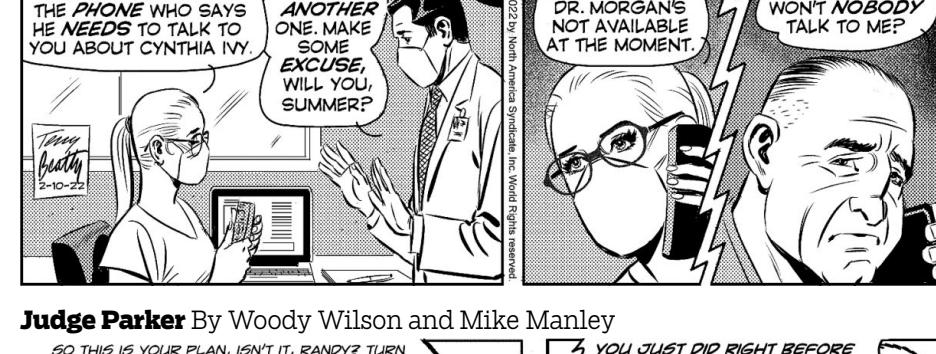
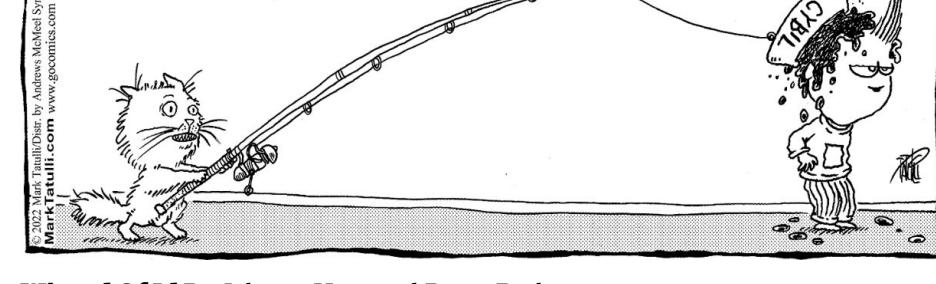
Answer here:  

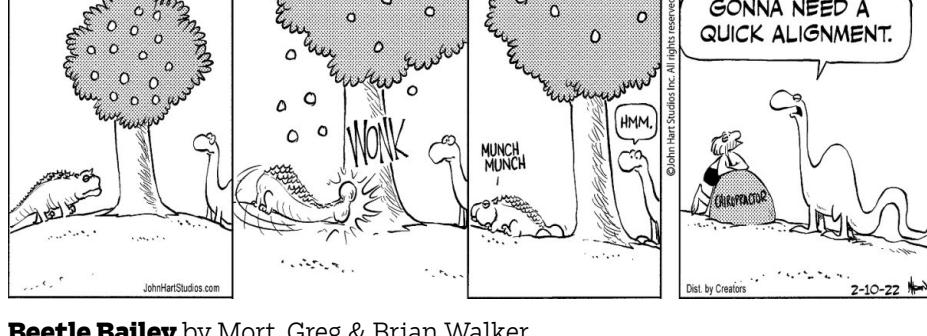
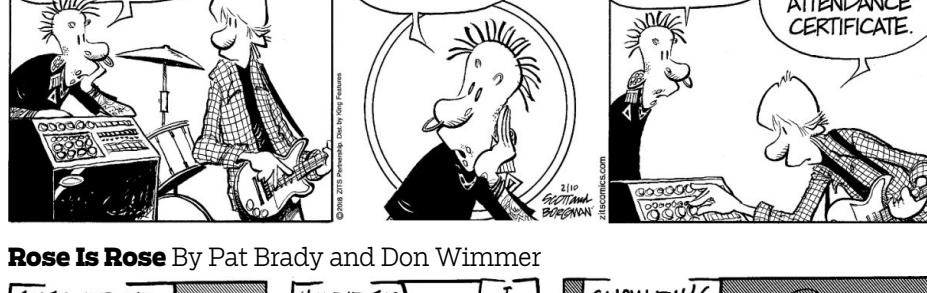
Jumbles: DOUGH SOUPY ONWARD UNJUST
Answer: When the producer told him he needed to switch microphones, he said — SOUNDS GOOD



Find 10 differences



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

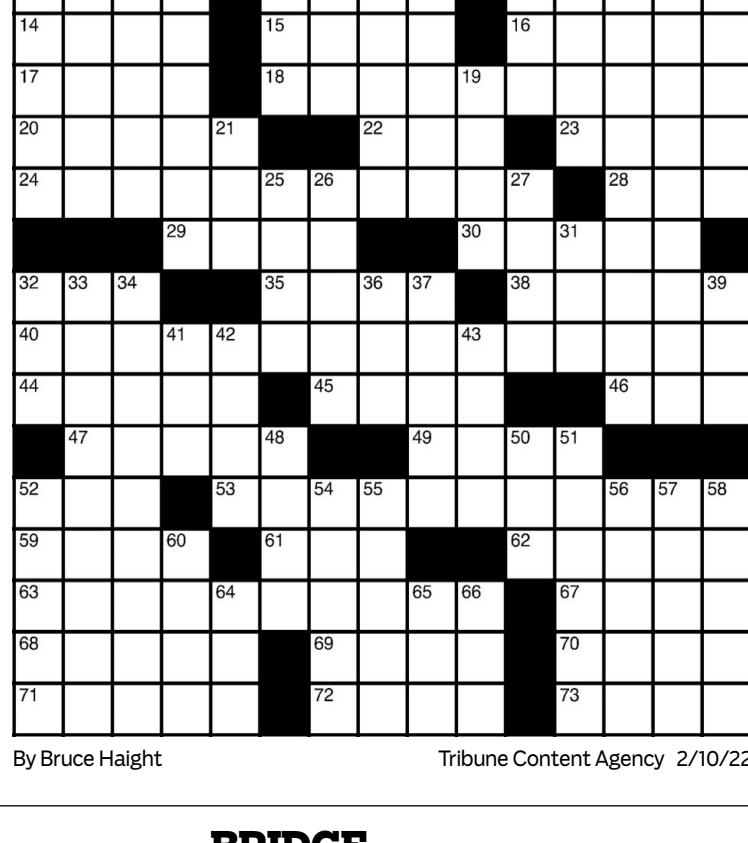
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 The Scotch kind might be double-coated
- 5 Poor benefits
- 9 Ludwig wrote für her
- 14 Genesis plot
- 15 Christmas Eve no-no
- 16 Places for curlers
- 17 Rock's Lofgren
- 18 Good news for the clean-up crew?
- 20 Get ready to drive
- 22 Brewery letters
- 23 Scruff
- 24 Good news for the elephant trainer?
- 28 Title for Nick Faldo
- 29 [Ah, me!]
- 30 Winningest baseball southpaw
- 32 Delta's primary hub: Abbr.
- 35 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
- 38 Sends out
- 40 Good news for the curling team?
- 44 Quarters with stories
- 45 Clearance caveat
- 46 1, 2, 3, etc.: Abbr.
- 47 Choice cut
- 49 Water-diverting feature
- 52 Word with tip or tub
- 53 Good news for the baker?
- 59 Thereabouts
- 61 Ma's his sis
- 62 Prayer hands, e.g.
- 63 Good news for the horror film producer?
- 67 Scrapes (out)
- 68 "The ___ Holmes Mysteries," series about Sherlock's teenage sister
- 69 Accident report?
- 70 ___ burn: cutting remark, in slang
- 71 Attach, as a patch
- 72 Kindle competitor
- 73 Roles, metaphorically

Down

- 1 Like J, in a way
- 2 Sayonara kin
- 3 Co-owner of the Pequod
- 4 Comes later
- 5 Like the name Robin Banks, for a yegg
- 6 Hula hoop?
- 7 MASH worker
- 8 FaceTime rival
- 9 Stumble
- 10 Meaning of "Simba" in Swahili
- 11 Trendy
- 12 Command to bypass pre-TV-episode material
- 13 Aromatic compound
- 19 Mountain___
- 21 Chi follower
- 25 Not-so-cute fruit
- 26 Table tennis powerhouse
- 27 Bit of design info
- 31 Oz. or lb.
- 32 Firing result
- 33 Sale phrase
- 34 When tripled, a holiday song



By Bruce Haight

Tribune Content Agency 2/10/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ K 9 7 5 2

♥ Q 6 2

♦ Q 8 5 3

♣ A

WEST

♦ Q 10 6

♥ J 10 9 7 3

♦ A

♣ Q J 6 4

EAST

♦ J 8 4

♥ K 8 5

♦ K 4

♣ Q 8 7 5 3

SOUTH

♦ A 3

♥ A 4

♦ J 10 9 7 6 2

♣ K 10 2

The bidding:
South 1 ♦
West 1 ♥
North 1 ♦
East 2 ♠Pass 4 ♦
5 ♦
Pass

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

The vanishing trick

There are many ways of arranging for a losing trick to disappear, but some of these are far less obvious than others.

Take this case where West leads a heart against five diamonds. Declarer plays dummy's queen hoping West has led from the king, but when East covers the queen with the king, what could have been an easy assignment now appears to be an impossible one.

It seems he must lose two trumps and a heart and go down one.

But if South gives the matter serious thought, he should conclude that there is still a legitimate chance to make the contract.

So he wins the heart with the ace, cashes the A-K of spades and ruffs a spade. When the spades turn out to be divided 3-3,

declarer's chances rise considerably. He next leads a club to the ace and returns the nine of spades.

With the opposing trumps situated as they are, there is nothing the defenders can do to stop the contract. If East discards, South pitches his heart loser, and West can do no better than ruff with the ace. East later scores a trump trick, but South takes the rest.

If East ruffs the nine of spades with the four, South discards his heart loser all the same. East wins the trick cheaply enough, but when he returns a heart, declarer ruffs and leads a trump. The A-K of trump then come tumbling down together, and again the contract is home.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAFYC

LGUEN

IDNVI

AVIRTI



The U.S. STOPPED PRINTING THE \$1,000 BILL IN 1969. THE LAST BILL PRINTED WAS THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CHAIR ELITE MAGNET PEOPLE

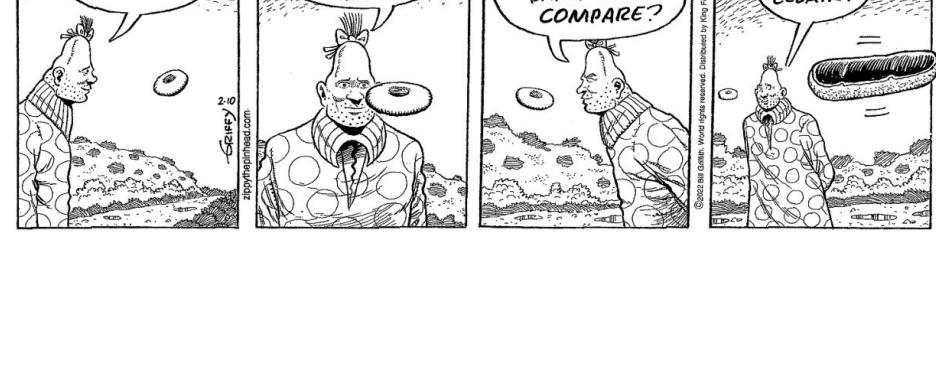
Answer: They were able to find enough leftovers in the refrigerator to put lunch together — PIECEMEAL

TODAY'S SUDOKU

5	4			1				
8				4	5			
	9			8	2			
		3	6		8			
	7		5		9			
1		7	2					
5	8			3				
3	6				4			
1			3	6				

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

B	A	B	R	H	E	L	P	P	O	R	C	H
A	D	O	R	E	O	R	E	A	S	E	S	E
S	E	R	I	F	L	I	N	O	T	A	R	T
H	O	T	L	E	G	S	H	O	T	S	E	A
I	P	O	L	I	T	R	E	A	T	A	R	I
T	E	R	M	F	I	N	A	L	E	K	R	I
C	R	U	E	L	C	O	W	L	T	I	T	E
H	A	N	S	O	M							
S	A	F	E	V	E	N	A	R	N	I	E	
T	U	L	S	A	T	N	S	A	R	N	I	
H	O	T	P	O	C	K	E	T	S			
O	R	I	M	C	L	A	I	M	A			
T	O	E	H	O	T	P	A	N	T			

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Jumble Books

Join the wordplay fun today with our vast collection of puzzle books.

Hartford Courant

— STORE —

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courant.com/shopjumble
or call (866) 545-3534

FOR SOME, FEELING
LEFT OUT
LASTS MORE THAN A MOMENT.

WE CAN CHANGE THAT.

We've all had moments where we've felt we didn't belong. But for people who moved to this country, that feeling lasts more than a moment. Together, we can build a better community. **Learn how at BelongingBeginsWithUs.org**

BELONGING
BEGINS WITH **US**

ad
COUNCIL



Thanks to a new scan, lung cancer can be detected early when it's more curable.
If you smoked, get scanned.

Talk to your doctor or visit SavedByTheScan.org

ad
COUNCIL

AMERICAN
LUNG
ASSOCIATION.

Hartford Courant
SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

VILLANOVA 72, NO. 8 UCONN WOMEN 69

Huskies drop 1st conference game since 2013

Unranked Wildcats build big lead, hold on for Big East stunner

By Alexa Philipou
 Hartford Courant

Sunday's win over Tennessee may have represented the promise of this UConn women's basketball team, but a mere three days later, on the same court in Hartford where the Huskies demolished a then-top-10 team, Wednesday featured an unraveling.

Aside from a valiant fourth-quarter comeback attempt, No. 8 UConn played to its floor against a hot Villanova team, ultimately falling 72-69 and snapping its tremendous streak of 169 consecutive conference wins dating to Dec. 29, 2013.

The Huskies (15-5, 9-1 Big East) trailed by as many as 19 before a late run thanks to the heroics of freshman Azzi Fudd (career-high 29 points, 13 in the fourth) made it a two-possession game with 36.2 seconds to play, and senior Christyn Williams (24 points) sank a pair of free throws to pull UConn within four with 26.2 to go.

Even after Villanova's Brianna Herlihy missed four free throws down the stretch, the Huskies couldn't capitalize, and Williams failed to get off a last-ditch shot attempt in time to count.

UConn's bad luck with injuries and illness struck yet again, as not only did freshman Caroline Ducharme remain out with a head injury but senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa was a late scratch. SNY reported that she wasn't feeling well before the game, though she

was in uniform and remained on the bench along with her teammates. It was the first time Nelson-Ododa didn't play in her UConn career.

Without Nelson-Ododa's inside presence and facilitating on offense, the Wildcats offense ran rampant and they dominated the glass as they shot 51.8% and hit 10 of 22 from 3. The Huskies were bested on the boards 37-21.

"For us, I can speak to them just being in their second year in the Big East, you forget that with the American what they've done and where they stand," Villanova head coach Denise Dillon said. "I think it's just us trying to embrace opportunity when it presents itself and we feel that we're on course with our group."

Turn to UConn, Page 4



UConn's Christyn Williams powers her way to the hoop against Villanova's Brooke Mullin during the first half of Wednesday night's game at the XL Center in Hartford. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

WINTER OLYMPICS

"It really shaped me into the individual that I am. It kept me hungry and really kept me fighting in this sport."

— Lindsey Jacobellis, on past Olympic failures



Gold medalist Lindsey Jacobellis, of the United States, celebrates on the podium during the women's snowboard cross victory ceremony at the Beijing Games on Wednesday at the Zhangjiakou Medals Plaza in Zhangjiakou. JEWEL SAMAD/GETTY-AFP

A long journey to gold

WINTER OLYMPICS AT A GLANCE

A look at top results and news from the Beijing Games.

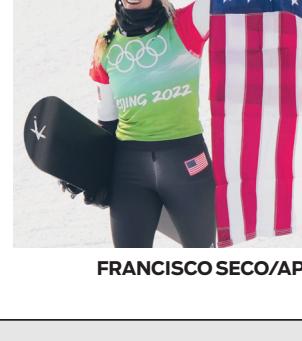
MEDAL LEADERS (as of 10 p.m. ET Wednesday)

Country	G	S	B	Tot
Russian Olympic Committee	2	3	6	11
Norway	4	2	4	10
Austria	2	4	4	10
Germany	5	3	0	8
Canada	1	2	5	8

HIGHLIGHTS

- According to reports Wednesday, 15-year-old Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva tested positive for a banned drug. The medals ceremony for the team competition, which Russia won, was postponed.
- Lindsey Jacobellis, right, claimed the first gold medal for the U.S. with her victory in snowboardcross.
- In its Olympic debut, the Denmark men's hockey team upset the Czech Republic 2-1 in preliminary play.

More coverage, Page 5



FRANCISCO SECO/AP

16 years after her infamous mistake, Jacobellis finally captures to prize

By Nicole Yang
 Boston Globe

Sixteen years after a disastrous decision cost her an Olympic gold medal, American snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis finally has her hands on the elusive prize.

Jacobellis, who was born in Danbury and grew up in Roxbury, Connecticut, and now resides near Stratton Mountain, Vermont, earned the first gold medal for Team USA at the 2022 Winter Games, edging out France's Chloe Trespeuch in the snowboard cross Wednesday morning. At 36, Jacobellis became the oldest snowboarder ever to win an Olympic medal.

But the victory should mean

so much more to Jacobellis, who has been haunted by a mistake she made in the same event at the 2006 Winter Games in Turin.

Jacobellis, then 20, maintained an extremely comfortable lead in the final and seemed well on her way to a gold medal. On the second-to-last jump, however, she decided to attempt a celebratory method grab only to lose her balance and fall.

As Jacobellis worked to regain her standing, Switzerland's Tanja Friedman passed her and crossed the finish line first. Jacobellis was forced to settle for silver.

Although she initially said

Turn to Jacobellis, Page 3

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Sanogo quickly becoming key to rest of season

By Shreyas Laddha
 Hartford Courant

Sophomore forward Adama Sanogo is the engine that drives the UConn offense.

On Tuesday night, the UConn men's basketball team defeated Marquette 80-72 at XL Center. Credit Sanogo. The win can be attributed mainly to his play on both ends of the court as he finished with 24 points, on 9-for-18 shooting from the field, and 15 rebounds.

The victory was important not only because it stopped a two-game losing streak and moved UConn into third in the Big East behind Providence and Villanova, but it gave the Huskies a quality win, their first over a ranked team since Nov. 24 when they beat Auburn, 115-109.

Sanogo was so solid, it seemed the only person who could stop him was himself and even then, it was only when he went up for a hook shot on the game's first play and missed.

The miss didn't matter and the energy he came out with in this game was completely different from his last three games. Sanogo played with an aggression and passion that had recently been lacking from this UConn team. In the previous games he had played tentative and didn't look aggressive on the offensive end. After some initial misses, he finished with 14 points on 7-for-13 shooting from the field in the first half.

UConn coach Dan Hurley then changed up the game plan for Sanogo.

"I like to let him get up and down a couple of times, especially for a big, I want him to

Turn to Sanogo, Page 4

Super Bowl 56

 Bengals vs. Rams
 6:30 p.m.
 Sunday, NBC

INSIDE
 CooperKupp's breakout season has Rams one win from Super Bowl crown. **Page 2**

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SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	32	22	.593	—
Toronto	29	23	.558	2
Boston	31	25	.554	2
Brooklyn	29	25	.537	3
New York	24	31	.436	8 1/2

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	35	20	.636	—
Charlotte	28	27	.509	7
Atlanta	26	28	.481	8 1/2
Washington	24	29	.453	10
Orlando	13	43	.232	22 1/2

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Milwaukee	35	21	.625	—
Chicago	33	21	.611	1
Cleveland	33	21	.611	1
Indiana	19	37	.339	16
Detroit	12	42	.222	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	38	18	.679	—
Dallas	32	23	.582	5 1/2
New Orleans	22	32	.407	15
San Antonio	20	34	.370	17
Houston	15	39	.278	22

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	33	21	.611	—
Denver	30	24	.556	3
Minnesota	29	25	.537	4
Portland	21	34	.382	12 1/2
Oklahoma City	17	36	.321	15 1/2

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	44	10	.815	—
Golden State	41	13	.759	3
L.A. Clippers	27	29	.482	18
L.A. Lakers	26	29	.437	18 1/2
Sacramento	20	36	.357	25

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

San Antonio at Cleveland, late
Chicago at Charlotte, late
Toronto at Oklahoma City, late
Golden State at Utah, late
L.A. Lakers at Portland, late
Minnesota at Sacramento, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Memphis at Detroit, 7p.m.
Brooklyn at Washington, 7:30p.m.
Miami at New Orleans, 7:30p.m.
Toronto at Houston, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Milwaukee at Phoenix, 10p.m.
New York at Golden State, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Phoenix 114, Philadelphia 109
Boston 126, Brooklyn 91
Atlanta 133, Indiana 112
Memphis 135, L.A. Clippers 109
New Orleans 110, Houston 97
Dallas 116, Detroit 86
Denver 132, New York 115
Orlando 113, Portland 95
Minnesota 134, Sacramento 114
Milwaukee 131, L.A. Lakers 116

NBA ALL-STAR SATURDAY NIGHT SKILLS CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS
Team Rooks: Cade Cunningham, Det
Josh Giddey, OKC
Team Cavs: Jarrett Allen
Darius Garland Evan Mobley
Team Antetokounmpo: Giannis Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee
Alex Antetokounmpo, Raptors905
Thanasis Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee

MTN DEW 3-Point Contest
CJ McCollum, NO Trae Young, Atl
Zach LaVine, Chi Luke Kennard, LAC
Desmond Bane, Mem
Karl-Anthony Towns, Min
Fred VanVleet, Tor Patty Mills, Brk

AT&T SLAM DUNK PARTICIPANTS
Cole Anthony, Orl
Juan Toscano-Anderson, GS
Obi Toppin, NY Jalen Green, Hou

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	47	32	10	5	69	194	139
Tampa Bay	46	30	10	6	66	157	130
Toronto	43	30	10	3	63	157	115
Boston	44	26	15	3	55	133	124
Detroit	47	20	21	6	46	130	162
Ottawa	42	16	22	4	36	118	140
Buffalo	45	14	24	7	35	117	157
Montreal	45	8	30	7	23	100	179

METRO	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Carolina	44	31	10	3	65	153	106
N.Y. Rangers	47	30	13	4	64	145	122
Pittsburgh	47	28	11	8	64	158	126
Washington	48	25	14	9	59	135	130
Columbus	44	21	22	1	43	141	163
N.Y. Islanders	39	16	17	6	38	113	95
Philadelphia	45	15	22	8	38	113	152
New Jersey	47	16	26	5	37	134	168

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	44	32	8	4	68	183	129
Nashville	46	28	14	4	60	144	125
Minnesota	42	28	11	3	59	161	122
St. Louis	44	26	13	5	57	153	121
Dallas	43	23	18	2	48	129	131
Winnipeg	43	19	17	7	45	122	128
Chicago	46	16	23	7	39	112	156
Arizona	46	11	31	4	26	100	174

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Vegas	47	28	16	3	59	162	137
Los Angeles	47	24	16	7	55	136	130
Anaheim	48	23	16	9	55	141	137
Calgary	42	23	13	6	52	136	104
Edmonton	43	23	17	3	49	142	142
San Jose	46	22	20	4	48	126	142
Vancouver	47	21	20	6	48	120	127
Seattle	46	15	27	4	34	121	159

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit at Philadelphia, late
Chicago at Edmonton, late
Nashville at Dallas, late
Vegas at Calgary, late
Arizona at Seattle, late
N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Carolina at Boston, 7p.m.
Columbus at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Washington at Montreal, 7p.m.
New Jersey at St. Louis,

SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at Xavier, Friday, 7 p.m.; at St. John's (MSG), Sunday, noon; Seton Hall (Gampel), Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.

UConn WBB: DePaul (Gampel), Friday, 7 p.m.; at Marquette, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.; at Xavier, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

Celtics: Nuggets, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Hawks, Sunday, 2 p.m.; at 76ers, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Knicks: at Warriors, Thursday, 10 p.m.; at Trail Blazers, Saturday, 5 p.m.; Thunder, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Nets: at Wizards, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Heat, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Kings, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

UConn hockey: at Boston Coll., Friday, 7 p.m.; UMass, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.; at UMass, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Bruins: Hurricanes, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.; at Rangers, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Rangers: Bruins, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Red Wings, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Feb. 20, 5 p.m.

Wolf Pack: Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; Rochester, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL

2 p.m.: Women's College: Wake Forest at Clemson. (Live) ACC

5 p.m.: William & Mary at Towson. (Live) CBSSN

5 p.m.: Mount St. Mary's at Wagner. (Live) ESPNU

6 p.m.: Women's College: NC State at Boston College. (Live) ACC

6:30 p.m.: Women's College: Missouri at Tennessee. (Live) SEC

7 p.m.: Southern Mississippi at Alabama-Birmingham. (Live) CBSSN

7 p.m.: Women's College: South Carolina at Kentucky. (Live) ESPN

7 p.m.: Iowa at Maryland. (Live) ESPN2

7 p.m.: South Carolina Upstate at Longwood. (Live) ESPNNU

7 p.m.: Women's College: Nebraska at Ohio State. (Live) FSI

7:30 p.m.: Nets at Wizards. (Live), TNT, YES

8 p.m.: Duke at Clemson. (Live) ACC

8:30 p.m.: Women's College: Georgia at LSU. (Live) SEC

9 p.m.: Pacific at Gonzaga. (Live) CBSSN

9 p.m.: Purdue at Michigan. (Live) ESPN

9 p.m.: Stanford at Oregon. (Live) ESPN2

9 p.m.: Arizona at Washington State. (Live) FSI

10 p.m.: Knicks at Warriors. (Live), MSG

10 p.m.: Bucks at Suns. (Live) TNT

11 p.m.: BYU at Loyola Marymount. (Live) ESPNNU

11 p.m.: Arizona State at Washington. (Live) FSI

GOLF

3 p.m.: WM Phoenix Open, First Round. (Live)

GOLF

3:30 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Ras al Khaimah Classic, Second Round. (Live) GOLF

HOCKEY

7 p.m.: Hurricanes at Bruins. (Live), NESN

OLYMPICS

6 a.m.: Freestyle Skiing. (Live) USA

8:10 a.m.: Men's Hockey - U.S. vs China. (Live) USA

10:30 a.m.: Men's Curling - U.S. vs Sweden. (Same-day Tape) USA

1:30 p.m.: Speed Skating. (Same-day Tape) USA

2 p.m.: Luge, Snowboarding, Cross-Country. (Same-day Tape) NBC

5 p.m.: Women's Curling - U.S. vs Denmark. (Same-day Tape) CNBC

5 p.m.: Men's Hockey - U.S. vs China. (Same-day Tape) USA

7:30 p.m.: Luge. (Same-day Tape) USA

8 p.m.: Freestyle Skiing, Snowboarding, Alpine Skiing. (Live) NBC

8:05 p.m.: Men's Curling - Great Britain vs U.S. (Live) CNBC

8:30 p.m.: Skeleton. (Live) USA

10 p.m.: Skeleton. (Live) USA

11:10 p.m.: Men's Curling - ROC vs Denmark. (Live) CNBC

11:10 p.m.: Women's Hockey, First Quarterfinal: Teams TBA. (Live) USA

11:35 p.m.: Skeleton, Hockey. (Live) NBC

GIANTS

Irvin convinced offense is a lost cause

Hall of Famer, NFL analyst provides bleak view of team's system

By Tom Rock
Newsday

LOS ANGELES — Ask Michael Irvin a simple question and you get a simple answer.

In this case, the query was: How would you fix the Giants' offense?

"Dude," the Hall of Fame

receiver and NFL Network analyst laughingly told Newsday on Wednesday at Super Bowl LVI, "we don't have the time to go through all of that."

Irvin is so convinced the Giants are a lost cause — and have been for some time — that two years ago he tried to dissuade former Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett from taking the job as their offensive coordinator.

"I was like 'Ooooh, I don't know about that one, man,'" Irvin said. "He's such a fighter. He's a winner. He wanted to go and do it. He said 'I'm a

coach, it's what I do. I can fix it. I can fix it.' I said to him then, 'I don't know if you can fix it.'

"And I'm saying this to you now: I don't know if I can fix it."

Fellow NFL Network analyst Steve Mariucci was only slightly less pessimistic about the Giants' situation, even with the addition of head coach Brian Daboll and offensive coordinator Mike Kafka from two of the top-scoring teams in the NFL, Buffalo and Kansas City, respectively.

Mariucci told Newsday he

thinks quarterback Daniel Jones can be a winner but noted that he says so "with some reservation."

"Like any quarterback you have to have a supporting cast," Mariucci said. "It was a shame that Saquon Barkley was hurt and it's a shame that they had some offensive line failures. That roster needs to improve, let's face it."

So, too, does Jones, and he doesn't have much time to do so. With one year left on his rookie contract and the Giants unlikely to pick up a fifth-year option in May, he's basically

playing the 2022 season on a prove-it deal.

"There's nothing fair," Mariucci said. "It's just how it is. He's got to do the best he can with what they have."

The Giants are going to be hard pressed to build a solid infrastructure around Jones in just one offseason. With little salary cap space for free agents and the potential for drafting players who will have to go through rookie learning curves, the immediate future for the Giants may be just as bleak as the last few years have been.

CELTICS

Playing best ball of season, team should be buyers at trade deadline

By Gary Washburn
Boston Celtic

NEW YORK — What is evident after the Celtics' sixth consecutive win in what has become an impressive resurgence is they actually have an opportunity to claim a high playoff seed in the Eastern Conference.

The Celtics are beyond just trying to avoid the play-in tournament, 4 1/2 games out of first place with 26 to play; it's time for the club to reassess its position and add to the roster for a long playoff run.

Tuesday's 126-91 win over the undermanned Brooklyn Nets at Barclays Center was yet another step away from mediocrity and moderate expectations.

Just a month ago the Celtics were 18-21 and in jeopardy of being a draft lottery team. But a combination of good health for the Celtics, COVID-19 issues, misfortune for other Eastern Conference clubs, and a stretch of impressive play by Boston's frontline players has thrust the club into contention.

In what has been a frustrating season, filled with blown leads, complacency and inconsistency, the Celtics have gathered themselves at the perfect time to make a legitimate run at the elite teams in the Eastern Conference.

"When you have your full roster available you think what you can do with your size, length and versatility," Celtics coach Ime Udoka said. "Offensively, it [was] going to take a little more time to come around to do some of the things that we're asking them, change their habits at times. You're always optimistic that when you get the full complement back, some of those lulls offensively won't happen and defensively we would be stronger."

What appeared to be out of the question a few weeks ago is now possible for a team that has displayed its strengths

— strong defense, two premium scorers and an improved pace — and its weaknesses — a lackluster and unproductive bench.

That should be a message to president of basketball operations Brad Stevens, who has roughly 36 hours before the NBA trade deadline to upgrade his team for what could be a special season. As much as the Celtics have proven better than expected, their Eastern Conference foes have all exhibited warts and shortcomings that have made this conference compelling.

There are no Phoenix Suns or Golden State Warriors boat-racing the rest of the conference with All-Star players and long winning streaks. The East is a bunch of solid but not spectacular teams that have had issues.

The Celtics are solid but not spectacular, aren't they? They have had their share of issues. And they have a starting lineup that can compete with any team in the NBA. What has been the problem — even during this winning streak — is the supporting cast, a crew that's too young, too flawed or just incapable of playing long stretches and relieving Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum.

Brown and Tatum are each playing their best basketball of the season. Marcus Smart, who had a team-high tying 22 points Tuesday and was able to let the 3-pointer launch during the blowout, is playing his best ball as a Celtic.

Robert Williams is staying healthy (the Celtics are crossing their fingers as we speak) and has emerged as a defensive force while Al Horford has become a stabilizer and remained a solid defender.

"We experienced some adversity early, which led to some games that we lost that maybe we should have won," Brown said. "Right now, we're only [two-thirds] of the way through so our mind is still focused on the future rather than looking back."

Fournier: Keep the roster intact

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

DENVER — Blow it up, keep it together or tinker?

The Knicks (24-31), despite their free-fall during this road trip and discouraging trends, entered Wednesday just 2 1/2 games out of a play-in position and eagerly awaiting Derrick Rose's return from ankle surgery.

Conventional wisdom suggests this roster is bottoming out without much upside, but Evan Fournier, who is among the multiple Knicks in trade rumors, emphatically pitched continuity as the team's best course.

"When I say something I mean it. I'm not here bulls—tting or saying something just to say it," Fournier said after the Knicks were pummeled by the Nuggets, their 10th loss in the last 12 games. "I really do believe we have the right pieces. We have talent, we have toughness, we have everything. And we're not that far from playing better and getting

wins. It's just about finding a way to play and sticking with that and building confidence and all that."

Nobody confused the Knicks for title contenders before the season, but they were coming off a fourth-place in the East and used about \$50 million in cap space to upgrade that roster. Much of that money was spent on Fournier, who has played well in spurts but with enough inconsistency to get shopped aggressively ahead of Thursday's deadline.

Hitting the trade market is not exclusive to Fournier on the Knicks, but it's noteworthy because they just gave him a four-year, \$73 million deal. He was supposed to fix the team's offensive woes after it was exposed in the playoffs by Atlanta. Instead, the Knicks have regressed in defensive AND offensive efficiency from last season.

Fournier has been traded twice in his career — including just last year from the Magic to the Celtics — and said he's ignoring the latest round of talks.

"The very first time I heard my name in trade rumors was probably my second year in Orlando," the Frenchman said. "At first it's a weird feeling to see your name pop up, your friends are all calling you, asking, 'What's going on, do you know anything?'

"The truth is as long as nothing happens it doesn't matter. We have a job to do, we have games to win. We have to prepare the same way. So yeah, it really doesn't matter. There's no effect at all. Actually, the one time I got traded from Denver to Orlando there was no rumors at all, there was nothing. So stuff like that, it's just a business. Year 10, you just don't worry about that."

There's also the uncertainty of RJ Barrett's health after he turned his ankle in the closing seconds of Tuesday's defeat to the Nuggets.

The Knicks have many questions as Thursday's 3 p.m. deadline approaches, and the front office hasn't spoken to the media in nearly five months.

Canada's Meryta O'Dine earned bronze.

"This feels incredible because the level that all the women are riding at today is so much higher than it was 16 years ago," Jacobellis said after her victory. "All these ladies out here have the potential to win, and today it just worked out for me that my starts were good, that my gliding was great, and everything just worked for me today."

Even Jacobellis's competitors acknowledged her long-awaited triumph.

"That is a very famous story in snowboard cross, so to see her come home with the gold after so many years, and she has so many wins, it's honestly really cool to see," O'Dine said. "I'm so proud that she got it."

"Lindsey deserves it," Trespeuch said. "When she crashed before the line, it was very hard for her. She's an example for us."

Asked what message she'd share with younger athletes, Jacobellis stressed the importance of learning from one's mistakes.

"It doesn't define you," she said. "Especially if

you've made it to this stage, you're a winner. Look at what you've learned from the experience, and take that with you later in life."

Jacobellis has previously said she would have retired after the 2006 Winter Games if she had won gold that day in Turin. Sixteen years later, she can finally do so — as a 10-time X Games

champion, four-time World champion, and an Olympic gold medalist — or perhaps she'll be back for more.

"Maybe I'll blink again, and I'll be back the next Olympics," she said. "I want to say that I'm really excited with how things are happening right now, so I'm going to try to live in this moment a little bit longer."

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Friday: vs. DePaul (at Gampel), 7 p.m., SNY

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: at Xavier, 7 p.m., FS1

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UConn's Adama Sanogo (21) looks for room to shoot around Marquette's Kur Kuath (35) in the first half at the XL Center on Tuesday in Hartford. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Sanogo

from Page 1

kind of get a sweat going before we start throwing the ball inside," he said. "Especially with a big guy, you want him to kind of get up and down a little bit before you throw it in. I think we scrapped that [Tuesday] and just started throwing it in."

When Sanogo is assertive in the first half it opens up a new dimension in the Huskies' offense. He forces the defense to rotate toward him, which leaves shooters in the corner wide open, which happened many times against Marquette. The Huskies shot 5-for-8 (62.5%) from 3. In Big East games, this was their highest percentage from beyond the arc in any half.

The Huskies have had their struggles starting slowly on the offensive end this season. UConn has played with a lack of energy

on offense to start a number of games, then wakes up in the second half, a trait that has cost them wins.

Of the 10 Big East games Sanogo's played he had more than five shot attempts in the first half six times. The Huskies' offense has shot 47.2% from the field in those games and 39.5% in the other four.

He hasn't shot the ball well in every first half of those games, but the theme seems to emerge that when Sanogo is playing with purpose and commanding the defense's attention, it opens up the floor for the rest of the Huskies. His passing is still a work in progress, but the offense plays inside-out through him and his overall aggressiveness to hunt for his shot. When Sanogo makes a tough shot, it's often momentum turning.

On the defensive end, he's an excellent rebounder and shot-blocker. This

was on full display against Marquette as he finished with the 15 rebounds, including five offensive. His ability to box out and get the rebound helped start fast-breaks that led to 26 points.

Marquette coach Shaka Smart praised the sophomore's ability to make tough plays.

"Sanogo was terrific," he said. "This is going to sound crazy, but I thought his baskets were more damaging mentally and emotionally than they were on the scoreboard. You can tell it was demoralizing when he made all those plays."

Hurley has often talked about wanting to be a team opponents' fear and don't want to play. For the Huskies, that means having an aggressive Sanogo every game.

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at [@shre98](https://www.twitter.com/@shre98) on Twitter.



UConn's Nika Muhl shoots against Villanova during the first half at the XL Center on Wednesday in Hartford. CLOE POISSON / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

UConn

from Page 1

"I think we've got a four-hour bus ride back to kind of reflect and digest what just happened, the big picture of it, but in the immediate it is about these guys and the group we have in front of us."

Aside from Fudd and Williams, no other UConn player had more than six points (Nika Mühl). Lior Garzon led the Wildcats with 19 points (5-for-10 from 3), while Maddy Siegrist and Herlihy chipped in 17 and 15, respectively.

Dillon became the second coach, joining South Carolina's Dawn Staley, to beat UConn as both a player and a coach. She's in her second season as head coach at her alma mater. Villanova (16-6,

VILLANOVA 72, UCONN 69

Villanova M FG FT RB A PF PT
Garzon 35 7-14 0-0 4 2 3 19
Siegrist 40 8-15 0-0 12 2 3 17
Herlihy 37 6-10 1-6 10 5 1 15
Olsen 35 4-8 3-6 3 7 0 11
Mullin 34 3-6 0-0 1 2 3 8
Runyan 16 1-3 0-0 1 0 1 2
Orinell 2 0-0 0-0 1 0 1 0
Cauley 1 0-0 0-0 1 0 1 0
TOTALS — 29 56 4-12 37 18 13 72

Three-point goals: 10-20, 50.0% (Garzon 5-10,

Herlihy 2-3, Mullin 2-3, Siegrist 1-3, Olsen 0-1,

Runyan 0-2). FG pct.: 51.8. FT pct.: 33.3. Team

rebounds: 4. Turnovers: 14 (Herlihy 8, Siegrist

2, Olsen, Mullin, Runyan, team). Blocks: 3

(Siegrist, Herlihy, Runyan). Steals: 4 (Herlihy,

Olsen, Mullin).

UConn 56, Marquette 72

Marquette M FG FT RB A PF PT
Prosper 31 7-8 3-3 5 0 3 18
Lewis 36 7-14 1-3 9 3 1 17
Morsell 29 3-12 1-4 3 3 1 3
Kuath 17 1-1 1-2 1 1 2 3
Kolek 25 1-7 0-0 0 4 1 2
Elliott 25 5-11 4-4 2 1 2 17
Jones 15 1-4 0-0 0 0 1 3
Ighodaro 14 0-5 3-4 2 1 5 3
Joplin 5 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0
Mitchell 3 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0
TOTALS — 25 62 13-20 27 13 19 72

Three-point goals: 9-24, 37.5% (Elliott 3-6, Lewis

2-6, Morsell 2-6, Prosper 1-1, Jones 1-3, Kolek

0-2). FG pct.: 40.3. FT pct.: 65.0. Team rebounds:

5. Turnovers: 6 (Prosper, Lewis, Kuath, Kolek,

Elliot, Jones 2, Ighodaro, Joplin). Steals: 11

(Morsell 6, Jones 3, Prosper, Kolek).

UConn M FG FT RB A PF PT
Sanogo 35 9-18 6-8 15 1 2 29
Martin 34 7-12 3-3 15 3 2 18
Cole 34 3-11 2-2 2 5 3 9
Jackson 33 2-5 3-4 5 2 4 7
Whaley 23 1-2 4-4 1 0 4 6
Hawkins 20 3-6 0-0 1 0 1 8
Polley 17 2-2 2-2 1 0 1 8
Gaffney 4 0-1 0-0 3 1 1 0
TOTALS — 27 57 20-23 46 12 18 80

Three-point goals: 6-14, 42.9% (Polley 2, Hawkins

2-4, Martin 1-3, Cole 1-5). FG pct.: 47.4. FT pct.:

87.0. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 14 (Sanogo 6,

Martin 2, Jackson 2, Gaffney 2, Cole, Hawkins).

Blocks: 5 (Whaley 2, Sanogo, Jackson, Hawkins).

Steals: 5 (Sanogo 2, Jackson 2, Cole).

Marquette M FG FT RB A PF PT
UConn 36 36 — 72
UConn 46 34 — 80

Officials: Farrell, Clark, Gaffney. Site: 12,188 XL

Center, Hartford.

was on full display against Marquette as he finished with the 15 rebounds, including five offensive. His ability to box out and get the rebound helped start fast-breaks that led to 26 points.

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Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at [@shre98](https://www.twitter.com/@shre98) on Twitter.

first 20 minutes this season.

Williams' 3 made it a two-possession game early in the third, but Villanova quickly extended its lead back to double figures. Fudd's 3 cut the deficit to 10 before the Wildcats hit three straight 3s to jump ahead by 19, forcing Geno Auriemma to call a timeout. Outscored 21-11 in the third, the Huskies managed to get it within 17 going into the final frame.

UConn couldn't get anything going offensively for most of the fourth. In the final three minutes, Fudd's outburst (eight points) and improved defense all around allowed the Huskies to outscore the Wildcats 24-10 in the final 10 minutes.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

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Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

LATE TUESDAY

UCONN 80, MARQUETTE 72

Marquette M FG FT RB A PF PT

Prosper 31 7-8 3-3 5 0 3 18

Lewis 36 7-14 1-3 9 3 1 17

Morsell 29 3-12 1-4 3 3 1 3

Kuath 17 1-1 1-2 1 1 2 3

Kolek 25 1-7 0-0 0 4 1 2

Elliott 25 5-11 4-4 2 1 2 17

Jones 15 1-4 0-0 0 0 1 3

Ighodaro 14 0-5 3-4 2 1 5 3

Joplin 5 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Mitchell 3 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

TOTALS — 25 62 13-20 27 13 19 72

Three-point goals: 9-24, 37.5% (Elliott 3-6, Lewis

2-6, Morsell 2-6, Prosper 1-1, Jones 1-3, Kolek

0-2). FG pct.: 40.3. FT pct.: 65.0. Team rebounds:

5. Turnovers: 6 (Prosper, Lewis, Kuath, Kolek,

Elliott, Jones 2, Ighodaro, Joplin). Steals: 11

(Morsell 6, Jones 3, Prosper, Kolek).

UCONN M FG FT RB A PF PT

Sanogo 35 9-18 6-8 15 1 2 29

Martin 34 7-12 3-3 15 3 2 18

Cole 34 3-11 2-2 2 5 3 9

Jackson 33 2-5 3-4 5 2 4 7

Whaley 23 1-2 4-4 1 0 4 6

Hawkins 20 3-6 0-0 1 0 1 8

Polley 17 2-2 2-2 1 0 1 8

Gaffney 4 0-1 0-0 3 1 1 0

TOTALS — 27 57 20-23 46 12 18 80

Three-point goals: 6-14, 42.9% (Polley 2, Hawkins

2-4, Martin 1-3, Cole 1-5). FG pct.: 47.4. FT pct.:

87.0. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 14 (Sanogo 6,

Martin 2, Jackson 2, Gaffney 2, Cole, Hawkins).

Blocks: 5 (Whaley 2, Sanogo, Jackson, Hawkins).

Steals: 5 (Sanogo 2, Jackson 2, Cole).

Marquette M FG FT RB A PF PT

UConn 36 36 — 72

UConn 46 34 — 80

Officials: Farrell, Clark, Gaffney. Site: 12,188 XL

Center, Hartford.

HIGH SCHOOL DIVING

Hall junior Genser sets school records while feeding his adrenaline rush

By Lori Riley

Hartford Courant

WEST HARTFORD — Jonah Genser has been doing cartwheels and flips since he was a youngster.

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

NFL takes over Commanders probe

The NFL moved quickly Wednesday to take over an investigation into alleged sexual harassment by Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder, saying the league, not the team, will hire an investigator to lead the probe. The Commanders announced Wednesday morning that the team had hired an outside investigator to look into former team employee Tiffani Johnston's claims that Snyder groped her thigh at a team dinner more than a decade ago and pushed her toward his limousine with his hand on her lower back. Hours later, NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league, not the team, would oversee the probe. The developments follow a familiar pattern. When former employees of Washington's NFL team first complained in 2020 about rampant sexual harassment by team executives, the team hired attorney Beth Wilkinson's firm to investigate. The league took over that probe and Wilkinson reported her findings to Goodell. The NFL fined Snyder \$10 million and he temporarily ceded day-to-day operations of the franchise to his wife, Tanya. Wilkinson's findings haven't been released publicly, and leaders of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform have pressed the league to turn over details of that probe.

Jacobellis gets redemption in gold



Lindsey Jacobellis captured the United States' first gold medal of the Beijing Olympics on Wednesday, riding hard to the line in her snowboardcross final a full 16 years after showboating near the finish cost her the title. The 36-year-old racer was competing in her fifth Olympics and captured the first U.S. win of the Games. With the win, Jacobellis rewrites a few special entries in the Winter Olympics history books. She became the oldest U.S. woman to win a gold; also, the 16 years marked the longest gap between medals for any U.S. woman. Up until Wednesday, Jacobellis was best known for taking a massive lead into the final jump at the 2006 Turin Games but pulling on her board in a showboat move as she rode over the crest, then falling and settling for silver. This time, she rode hard all the way to the line, beating Chloe Trespeuch of France. Meryeta O'Dine of Canada won the bronze. "They can keep talking about it all they want," Jacobellis said. "Because it really shaped me into the individual that I am. It kept me hungry and kept me fighting in this sport."

Arkansas upsets top-ranked Auburn

Auburn came onto the Bud Walton Arena court acting like a No. 1 team, dancing on the Arkansas logo before the game. When it was over, the Razorbacks and all their fans were the ones doing a victory stomp — led by a shirtless coach going hog wild. JD Notae scored 28 points and unranked Arkansas used clutch foul shooting in overtime to knock off top-ranked Auburn 80-76 on Tuesday night in Fayetteville. "We didn't like them dancing on our logo," said Jaylin Williams, whose late basket forced the extra session. "That was disrespectful to us. That added fuel to the fire." The Razorbacks (19-5, 8-3 SEC) hit 11 of 14 free throws in the final 1:52 of overtime in front of a raucous record crowd of 20,327. Arkansas students stormed the court after the final buzzer sounded, turning the floor into a sea of white. Several Razorbacks players stood on a table on the sideline twirling towels. Arkansas coach Eric Musselman ripped off his shirt — as he's occasionally done in the past — and joined the celebration. It was the first time an Arkansas team had beaten a No. 1-ranked team since 1984 against North Carolina. Auburn (22-2, 10-1) had won 19 straight since a double-overtime loss to Connecticut in November.

—Associated Press



American Mikaela Shiffrin sits on the side of the course after skiing out in a second straight event at the Beijing Games. ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

OLYMPICS COMMENTARY

Lessons to learn for all

Shiffrin's struggles keep issue of mental health in forefront

By Paul Newberry

Associated Press

BEIJING — When Mikaela Shiffrin careened off the course, another expected gold medal slipping away before she hardly got started, the announcers from NBC let her have it.

"One of the bigger shockers in Olympic alpine skiing history," play-by-play man Dan Hicks bellowed.

"Almost a rookie mistake," analyst Ted Ligety, a two-time gold medalist himself, chimed in harshly.

The cameras homed in on Shiffrin, who clicked out of her skis and plopped down on the artificial snow — head bowed, arms resting on bent knees — as she tried to process another unimaginable outcome in the first run of the slalom.

NBC seemed determined to document every single one of Shiffrin's tears, to the point of failing to even show the next few skiers that took to the treacherous course known as Ice River.

In a different era, AKA before last summer, this sort of coverage would have been accepted, almost expected.

But times have changed since Simone Biles bared her mental-health issues to the world at the Tokyo Games, and other athletes have followed her lead.

In that context, it wasn't surprising for social media to quickly turn its wrath on the network that had banked so much of its coverage on Shiffrin being one of the stars.

"Some really shameful coverage by NBC of Michaela Shiffrin," one person tweeted. "Just pure trauma porn for their ratings instead of treating her like a human."

"NBC NEEDS TO STOP TORTURING MIKAELA SCHIFFRIN!!" a viewer posted.

All of which raises some dilemmas:

Is it still OK to criticize a much-hyped athlete who fails to meet expectations at a huge event such as the Winter Olympics?

How long should we linger on their disappointment before it looks more like ambulance chasing than legitimate coverage?

These are the sort of questions that journalists have long grappled with, but Biles' ordeal in Tokyo — where the world's greatest gymnast dropped out of one event after another, not feeling she was mentally prepared to compete — has added a whole new layer to the discussion.

Athletes from tennis star Naomi Osaka to NFL receiver Calvin Ridley to swimming powerhouse Caeleb Dressel have openly addressed their fragile mental states and the emotional toll it takes to compete.

But journalists, whether we work for a network that pays billions to televise the Olympics or represent an athlete's hometown newspaper, have a job to do.

We must tell the story openly, honestly, without the glare of stars in our eyes.

In fairness to NBC, the network surely would've been accused of coddling one of its most valued Olympics assets if the coverage had quickly cut away after Shiffrin tumbling out of the slalom after just a few seconds — a result even more shocking because she did pretty much the very same thing in her first event of these Games, the giant slalom.

Shiffrin was certainly gracious, honest and revealing in her interview with NBC, just as she was during a long, tedious journey through the mixed zone, where the rest of the world's media was gathered.

"Pretty much everything makes me second-guess the last 15 years," Shiffrin told NBC's Todd Lewis. "Everything I thought I knew about my skiing and racing mentality."

She was the first to concede that these Winter Games have not in any way gone as she had hoped and planned. NBC's coverage, even if teetered on exploitative, in no way changes that reality.

"It feels like a really big letdown," the two-time Olympic gold medalist said.

No matter how much pressure we in the media put on athletes, most will tell you it's nowhere near the amount of pressure that they put on themselves.

Shiffrin was feeling that burden before she ever climbed the mountain, knowing that it was essentially gold-or-bust for a skier who had become about as automatic as the tides.

Yet at these Olympics, in her two best events, she's managed to stay on the course for a total of less than 20 seconds.

"It really feels like a lot of work for nothing," she said.

In retrospect, Shiffrin was not in the best place mentally or physically coming into Beijing.

She's still reeling from the death of her father, Jeff, who passed away two years ago from a severe head injury after an accident at the family's Colorado home.

Not to mention, her training was hampered by a back problem and a bout with COVID-19.

Still, no one expected this.

Least of all, Shiffrin.

"I've never been in this position before," she said, "and I don't know how to handle it."

Those are lessons she'll have to learn in the days and weeks and lifetime to come.

In the meantime, those of us who document these journeys for the rest of the world must look into ways we can do our jobs with more compassion and empathy, without scrimping on the painful parts of the story.

Shiffrin won't be the last athlete to fall.

We can't catch them, but perhaps we can make the landing a little less painful.

OLYMPICS SNOWBOARDING

White shows plenty left 'in the tank'

By Eddie Pells

Associated Press

ZHANGJIAKOU, China — Shaun White let up just the tiniest bit as he jerked his body around for a trick — his signature trick, and a trick he's landed without a hitch hundreds of times before.

The next thing he knew, he said, "I'm ... thinking, 'Wow, I only have one more chance to get this done!'"

After an untimely fall in the first round of qualifying, the most-successful half-pipe rider in history turned the drama up to "11" on Wednesday, coming through huge in a land-or-go-home run that put him into the medal round at his fifth and final Olympics.

"It was not," White said, "a position I like to be in a lot."

White found himself there when he eased up ever so slightly and wound up off-balance for the landing of "The Tomahawk," — a trick he invented more than a decade ago that involves a frontside takeoff and then 1260 degrees of spin at a diagonal, off-axis angle.

He most famously stuck that trick to cap off the Vancouver Olympics in 2010, in a "victory run" after his gold medal had already been sealed and he was simply showing off for the crowd.

At 35 and with one more contest left in his storied career, White doesn't have that luxury anymore. Still, he wasn't alone in assuming he'd be in a fight to the finish come Friday, where two-time silver medalist Ayumu Hirano and 2018 bronze medalist Scotty James are among those who will be waiting to take his title.

But after the fall in the first of two qualifying rounds, nothing felt certain. In the preliminaries, riders get two chances and their best score counts. The top 12 riders advance. After Round 1, White was in 19th place.

"I was thinking a lot about that, like, how if the next run went terribly, I'd be standing here, talking to everyone over and over about how I'm still happy to be here, but it sucks," White said. "I'm so thankful I'm not living that right now."

Though White is no stranger to pressure — he won his third gold four years ago with a near-perfect trip on the day's last run — there's something different about riding for gold, as opposed to riding simply to get to the gold-medal round.

But he's been there before, too.

He fell in the first round of qualifying at his first Olympics, in 2006 in Italy. He spent the time in between rounds simply doing free-rides through the Alps and trying to take his mind off the immense task ahead. He made it through and won.

Sixteen years later, it was same deal, different continent. Over a tense 50 minutes, he took three or four rides through the hills to stay warm.

"He was doing his thing, and he jumped on the T-bar and they got me on the radio and said, 'Have you seen Shaun?'" U.S. coach Mike Jankowski said. "I said, 'He'll be there in just a moment.' He literally slid right into the start gate and just dropped. It worked out great."

The second run was smooth as silk — a pair of double-cork 1080s to start, his famed comma-shaped "sky hook" in the middle, then the Tomahawk and then another double-cork 1260 to cap it off.

He tore off his goggles and let out a huge "Yeaahhhh" after he crossed the line.

Chloe Kim, who earlier had breezed through her own qualifying round, was in the crowd and cheered. White's score popped up and he was in fourth. It means he'll be the fourth-to-last rider to go in all three of Friday's decisive rounds. Not a bad position to possibly put some pressure on the three who finished ahead of him — Hirano, James and Hirano's Japanese teammate, Ruka Hirano.

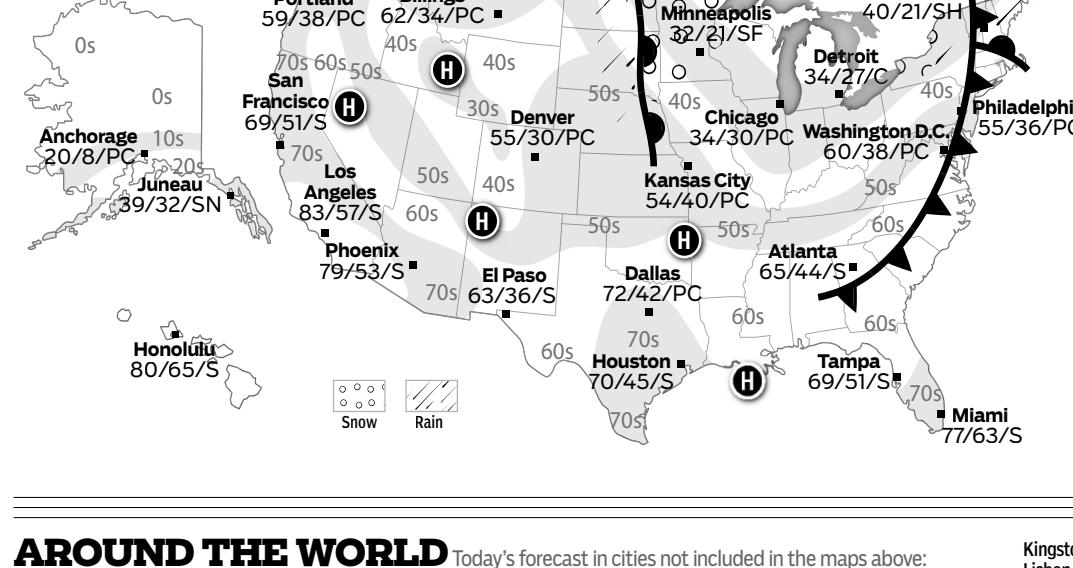
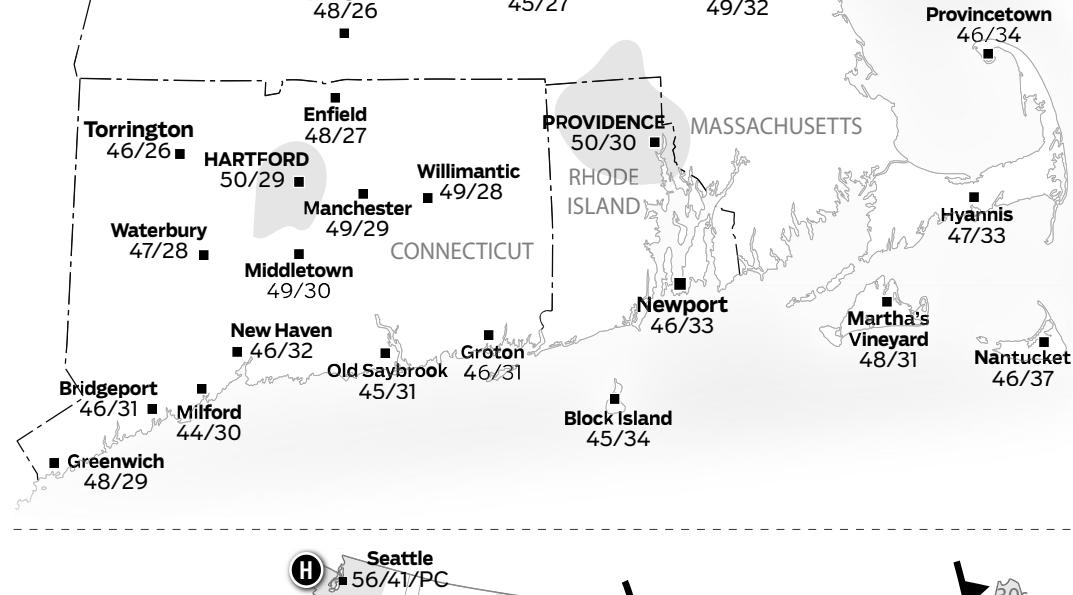
"Today we were told a lot, because you put a run down and then you see if the judges like you," said White's coach, JJ Thomas. "He got fourth place with what, for him, is kind of a conservative run. He's got a lot more in the tank."

WEATHER

THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SATURDAY			SUNDAY			MONDAY			
SUNRISE	NOON	SUNSET	SUNRISE	NOON	SUNSET	SUNRISE	NOON	SUNSET	SUNRISE	NOON	SUNSET	SUNRISE	NOON	SUNSET	
Partly sunny and mild. Southwest wind at 5 to 10 mph.	50°	50°	Mostly sunny, remaining milder than normal.	46°	46°	Partly sunny, breezy and unseasonably mild.	55°	55°	Cloudy with a chance for snow, breezy.	31°	31°	Partly sunny, breezy and colder.	24°	24°	Partly sunny, breezy and colder.
LOW 29°			LOW 37°			LOW 24°			LOW 12°			LOW 11°			LOW 11°

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND		WORLD		EUROPE		ASIA		AUSTRALIA		MIDDLE EAST		AFRICA		LATIN AMERICA	
Bangor	39 23 C	Baltimore	56 32 PC	Nashville	58 38 PC	San Juan	84 73 PC	Budapest	56 35 S	Kingston	84 71 SH	Stockholm	40 27 S	Montevideo	50 20 C
Burlington	39 23 SF	Bismarck	54 17 C	New Orleans	66 45 S	Tucson	76 46 S	Buenos Aires	87 71 S	Lisbon	65 51 C	Sydney	78 68 SH	Caracas	50 18 C
Caribou	37 24 F	Boise	40 20 S	New York	51 36 PC	Amsterdam	44 38 SH	Dubai	78 61 S	London	48 36 SH	Tel Aviv	58 49 SH	Bogota	50 18 C
Concord	40 23 C	Charleston	68 44 C	Omaha	52 36 PC	Athens	61 38 PC	Dublin	47 34 S	Madrid	64 40 PC	Tokyo	51 33 SH	Buenos Aires	50 18 C
Montpelier	39 20 SH	Cincinnati	45 32 PC	Orlando	72 48 S	Bangkok	92 78 SH	Edinburgh	44 30 SH	Milan	62 46 PC	Cairo	34 27 PC	Caracas	50 18 C
Mt. Wash.	23 5 I	Cleveland	37 30 C	Pittsburgh	41 29 S	Tokyo	97 80 SH	New Delhi	70 49 S	Montreal	69 44 PC	Cancun	35 27 SN	Montevideo	50 18 C
Portland	43 24 C	Indianapolis	39 31 PC	Raleigh	67 40 S	Barbados	79 71 PC	Paris	43 23 PC	Helsinki	53 42 C	Toronto	47 35 PC	Caracas	50 18 C
Woods Hole	49 33 PC	Jacksonville	69 39 S	St. Louis	52 41 S	Beijing	49 26 PC	Prague	59 60 PC	Toronto	54 32 C	Vancouver	47 36 SH	Montevideo	50 18 C
Jacksonville	69 39 S	Las Vegas	75 51 S	Salt Lake City	47 33 PC	Beirut	56 50 SH	Istanbul	49 37 PC	Rio de Janeiro	52 39 PC	Warsaw	47 36 SH	Caracas	50 18 C
Las Vegas	75 51 S	Miami Beach	75 67 S	San Antonio	71 44 S	Berlin	49 37 SH	Jerusalem	45 39 SH	Rome	53 36 S	Stockholm	40 27 S	Montevideo	50 18 C
Milwaukee	29 27 PC	San Diego	81 56 S	Bermuda	70 67 SH	Johannesburg	80 61 PC	Seoul	48 29 PC	Singapore	85 75 SH	Sydney	78 68 SH	Caracas	50 18 C
Atlantic City	57 31 PC	KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms													

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

ENFIELD 67, TOLLAND 52	
TOLLAND (3-11): Nathan Bowes 2-4-8, Mitchell Enman 5-0-13, Owen Lovi 1-0-3, Dan Kennedy 2-0-5, Cullen Rubleksi 2-3-7, Gavin Bagnall 4-0-8, Joey Keene 3-0-8. Totals 19-7-2.	
ENFIELD (6-9): Kaden Birkett 6-0-13, Josiah Whaley 4-3-12, Isaiah Plummer 9-0-4, Alex Herron 2-4-8, Tighe Thebodeau 4-0-10. Totals 25-7-6.	
T 14 12 11 15 5 52	
E 21 7 19 20 67	

Note: Whaley had a double-double with 10 assists, 4 steals.

EAST CATHOLIC 70, EAST HARTFORD 60

EAST CATHOLIC 70, EAST HARTFORD 60	
EAST CATHOLIC (11-3): Robert Elliott 5-1-1, Luke Reilly 2-1-5, Samson Reilly 3-0-6, James Jones 7-4-20, Leandre Sanchez 4-0-9, Preston Fowler 2-0-4, Allyn Wright 5-4-15. Totals 28-10-70.	
EAST HARTFORD (8-8): Chris Lomax 6-1-5, Favour Okeke 4-5-12, Zander Robinson 4-2-13, David Pardo 1-2-4, Dom Laduca 3-2-10, Justin Victorin 1-2-4. Totals 19-14-60.	
EC 21 9 19 21 70	
EH 12 14 14 20 60	

Note: Whaley had a double-double with 10 assists, 4 steals.

GRANBY 62, WINDSOR LOCKS 61

GRANBY 62, WINDSOR LOCKS 61	
GRANBY (12-3): Declan Lynch 5-0-15, Justin Phillips 8-0-18, Josh Brown 2-4-9, Liam Heirze 2-2-7, John Bell 1-0-2, Ralph Rossi 4-3-11. Totals 23-9-62.	
WINDSOR LOCKS (7-8): Jayden Buckle 12-5-33, Jaheime Thomas 2-2-6, Chris Vega 3-2-8, Austin Smith 0-2-2, Jamari Murrell 0-4-1, Kyle Hinckley 3-0-8. Totals 21-15-61.	
G 14 23 11 14 62	
WL 17 18 14 23 61	

Note: Hinckley had 14 rebounds.

SUFFIELD 66, HMTCA 50

SUFFIELD 66, HMTCA 50	
HMTCA (5-12): Seth Moore 1-1-3, Derrick Sheets 6-0-16, Christian Smith 6-2-14, Eydaw Anwer 3-1-7, Josh O'Neal 2-0-4, Russell Smith 2-1-5, Jayden Crotty 0-1-1. Totals 10-4-50.	
SUFFIELD (10-6): Ryan Lewis 4-4-12, Nick Van Cott 3-0-6, Tyler Lewis 0-1-1, Jack Pixon 4-0-9, Michael Coggins 11-6-29, Mark Lobo 0-1-1, Nick Sattan 2-0-4, Jack Los 0-1-1, Quinn Lynam 0-1-1, Chris Crozier 1-0-2. Totals 25-7-66.	
S 7 11 15 4 37	
R 7 9 11 23 50	

Note: Hinckley had 14 rebounds.

GRANBY 52, WINDSOR LOCKS 51

GRANBY 52, WINDSOR LOCKS 51	
GRANBY (12-3): Declan Lynch 5-0-15, Justin Phillips 8-0-18, Josh Brown 2-4-9, Liam Heirze 2-2-7, John Bell 1-0-2, Ralph Rossi 4-3-11. Totals 23-9-62.	
WINDSOR LOCKS (7-8): Jayden Buckle 12-5-33, Jaheime Thomas 2-2-6, Chris Vega 3-2-8, Austin Smith 0-2-2, Jamari Murrell 0-4-1, Kyle Hinckley 3-0-8. Totals 21-15-61.	
G 14 23 11 14 62	
WL 17 18 14 23 61	

Note: Hinckley had 14 rebounds.

TOLLAND 52, ENFIELD 67

TOLLAND 52, ENFIELD 67	
TOLLAND (3-11): Nathan Bowes 2-4-8, Mitchell Enman 5-0-13, Owen Lovi 1-0-3, Dan Kennedy 2-0-5, Cullen Rubleksi 2-3-7, Gavin Bagnall 4-0-8, Joey Keene 3-0-8. Totals 19-7-2.	
ENFIELD (6-9): Kaden Birkett 6-0-13, Josiah Whaley 4-3-12, Isaiah Plummer 9-0-4, Alex Herron 2-4-8, Tighe Thebodeau 4-0-10. Totals 25-7-67.	
T 14 12 11 15 52	
E 21 7 19 20 67	

Note: Whaley had a double-double with 10 assists, 4 steals.

WEST HARTFORD 60, EAST CATHOLIC 70

WEST HARTFORD 60, EAST CATHOLIC 70	

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Hartford Courant

FLAVOR

LIVING



A no-ABV, low-ABV and classic French 75. Thanks to a deeply flavored citrus shrub, this classic cocktail can be adapted for those who are drinking, want something lighter, or who are fully abstaining from alcohol. JENNY HUANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

1 BASE, 3 DRINKS for a range of kick

By Rebekah Pepple
The New York Times

A drink doesn't have to be booze-forward, or make you tipsy after just one, to be cocktail-appropriate.

At even the smallest gatherings, it's common for one or more guests to be abstaining, or to simply want to drink less that night, month or year. And, in those cases, what's important is not the reason for guests' abstention but their comfort and inclusion. With that in mind, a versatile drinking option that works at different alcohol contents (low, none or full) can be unifying, as it lets everyone confidently raise a glass.

"A good host is prepared," said Julia Bainbridge, the author of "Good Drinks," a book of alcohol-free drink recipes, and a newsletter of the same name. "Even if you do know that all your friends coming over drink, it's still nice to have a nonalcoholic option. They might have a drink

and then switch to the nonalcoholic one."

Just as some abstain from alcohol entirely, others may just want a less-potent drink. For them, low-proof spirits and liqueurs take center stage, providing enough spirited kick to usher the drink into cocktail territory, while keeping it light in impact.

While you could make something unique for each person, serving drinks with similar flavor profiles plays to the home bartender's advantage.

A simple way of doing this is to make a nonalcoholic base and build similar-enough drinks across a range of alcohol contents. Start, for example, with a shrub.

Shrubs are often called drinking vinegars for their vinegar base, but, in the early 18th century, shrubs were lemon-based, the juice mixed with sugar, then combined with brandy or rum. Because fresh citrus was expensive to import and difficult to attain, vinegar became a ready replacement, eventually

Sweet bay-peppercorn shrub

Total time: 15 minutes, plus at least 6 hours' resting

Makes: 2 cups

5 medium lemons, peeled and fruit reserved
1 small grapefruit, peeled and fruit reserved
1 1/4 cups sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons whole black peppercorns, crushed
1 teaspoon flaky sea salt
3 sprigs fresh thyme
3 cloves, crushed
2 bay leaves

1. Place citrus peels in medium bowl or a large jar. Add sugar, peppercorns, salt, thyme, cloves and bay leaves.

2. Use a muddler or the end of a rolling pin to muddle the mixture together, working the sugar mixture into the peels until the peels begin to



express their oils and start to turn slightly translucent. Set aside at room temperature for at least 6 hours or overnight. Much of the sugar should be dissolved, and the citrus peels will be mostly translucent.

3. Juice the reserved lemons and grapefruit. (You should

have about 1 1/4 cups juice.) Add the juice to the mixture and stir (or cover and shake the jar) until the sugar and salt dissolve. Strain through a fine-mesh strainer, pressing on the solids, and transfer to an airtight container. The shrub can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 1 month.

ally surpassing the citrus-based antecedent to fashion the tangy, sweetly concentrated fruit (and, nowadays, vegetable) syrups we know today. While the vinegar base is the more commonly known shrub, the citrus-

based iteration provides a brightly tart, deeply flavorful base layer that is tops for drinks across the spectrum of ABV, or alcohol by volume.

Prepare the shrub the morning of or night before,

then consider your options. A no-ABV French 75 can be sweetly sour and decidedly adult when made with sweet bay-peppercorn shrub, lemon, soda water and dry tonic. An acidic, bubbly low-ABV French 75

No-ABV French 75

Makes: 1 cocktail

Ice
1 ounce sweet bay-peppercorn shrub
1/2 ounce fresh lemon juice
3 dashes orange bitters (optional; see note)
2 ounces soda water
1 ounce dry tonic water
Lemon twist

In an ice-filled cocktail shaker, combine sweet bay-peppercorn shrub, lemon juice and bitters, if using. Cover and shake until well chilled. Strain into a Nick and Nora or coupe glass, and top with soda water and tonic. Finish with the lemon twist.

Note: Most bitters have a small amount of alcohol and, while very diluted, make sure whenever you're making a drink for is OK with this addition, or skip entirely.

Low-ABV French 75

Makes: 1 cocktail

Ice (optional)
1 ounce blanc vermouth, such as Dolan or Noilly Prat
1 ounce sweet bay-peppercorn shrub
1/2 ounce fresh lemon juice
3 to 4 ounces Champagne or dry sparkling wine
Lemon twist

In an ice-filled shaker, combine the vermouth, shrub and lemon juice. Cover and shake vigorously until well chilled. If serving over ice, fill a Collins glass with ice and strain the cocktail into the glass. If forgoing the ice, strain into a Nick and Nora or coupe glass. Top with Champagne and finish with the lemon twist.

Classic French 75

Makes: 1 cocktail

Ice
1 ounce gin or cognac
1/2 ounce fresh lemon juice
1/2 ounce simple syrup or 1/2 ounce sweet bay-peppercorn shrub
3 ounces Champagne or dry sparkling wine
Lemon twist

In an ice-filled shaker, combine the gin or cognac, lemon juice and simple syrup or shrub. Cover and shake vigorously until well chilled. Strain into a Champagne or coupe glass and top with Champagne. Finish with a lemon twist.

combines blanc vermouth, shrub, lemon and Champagne. A classic French 75, full-proof and fizzy, can be made with cognac or gin. Each has a distinctive vibe, but many ingredients overlap, including that richly flavored citrus shrub (which can be served, too, on its own with a splash of soda water or tonic).

Choose two or all three, and offer them as equal-opportunity, equal-attention options — a veritable choose-your-own-adventure for the happy hour set.

Zuppa Toscana recipe outdoes popular Olive Garden dish

By Laura Rege
TheKitchen.com

If you crave Olive Garden's zuppa Toscana, you need to make this recipe. It hits the spot in just the same way, and it might even be better

because you have a big ol' pot to yourself. Plus, coming in at just 10 ingredients, it's an easy copycat recipe that isn't a labor of love.

Creamy with just a touch of heat and spice from hot Italian sausage,

this soup studded with potatoes and kale is rich and satisfying. Make a big batch to stock up your freezer, serve it to family or enjoy leftovers throughout the week. Just don't forget to serve it with breadsticks.

How to make your zuppa Toscana even better than Olive Garden's

Amp up the flavor! A dash of white wine vinegar perks up the soup by cutting through the creaminess without taking away from it. We also like to add

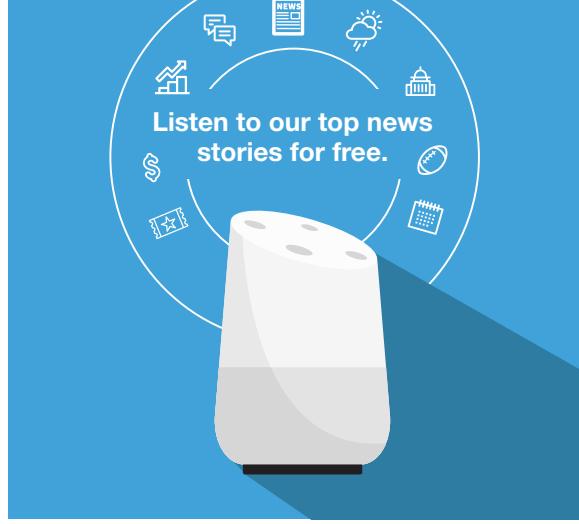
in more pepper flakes and fresh herbs.

Is zuppa Toscana spicy?

This zuppa Toscana recipe is slightly spicy from the Italian sausage and crushed red pepper flakes, but it can easily be prepared

for the spice-averse — just use sweet Italian sausage in place of hot and skip the red pepper flakes. On the other hand, feel free to add more pepper flakes for spice-lovers.

Turn to Toscana, Page 2



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You don't need a party for shrimp cocktail

By Eric Kim
The New York Times

For his birthday, Montreal chef Fred Morin wanted to fulfill a childhood fantasy: designing his own shrimp cocktail-themed ice cream cake at Baskin-Robbins. In his mind, the cake resembles a party ring of shrimp, complete with faux red cocktail sauce.

Morin said that as a child, "the reason you wanted to get a job was to buy more ice cream cakes, shrimp rings and Hot Wheel cars."

Sometimes as an adult, you still just want a lot of a really good thing.

Reserved for special occasions, shrimp cocktail is arguably on the top five list of really good things. And when you make it at home, you can eat as much of it as you want — maybe even a whole party plate.

If you've ever tried to down an entire 32-ounce platter of shrimp cocktail from Costco by yourself, you know that it can be difficult.

What is it about shrimp cocktail that makes us want to eat more of it than is humanly necessary?

Maybe it's that it feels like a celebration even when celebrating feels uncertain.

Maybe it's that eating lots of shrimp cocktail is a dream deferred: When you order it at a restaurant, you often get a lousy portion of only four or five shrimp.

Making it in your own kitchen allows you to fulfill that fantasy of eating six, 10

or even 20 in one sitting.

When you're eating that much shrimp — and even when you're not — it's essential that they be perfectly cooked.

This recipe prevents the shrimp from cooking to a tough, rubbery state and maximizes flavor by gently poaching them in a deeply seasoned broth of salt, chile powder and celery seed.



These plump, gently poached shrimp come with a trio of sauces: classic cocktail, garlicky dill butter and curried honey mustard.

BEATRIZ DA COSTA/
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Rather than washing away all that seasoning by draining the shrimp and plunging them into a bath of ice and water, here you stop the cooking by adding ice directly to the broth, a method that chef and cookbook author Molly Baz landed on while creating a shrimp cocktail recipe for Bon Appétit in 2018.

When it comes to dipping sauces, the world is your crustacean. Go for a classic cocktail sauce with the sharp brightness of lemon and horseradish. Or prepare a simple garlicky dill butter, which makes the shrimp taste somehow of lobster. Better yet, reach for a comforting, warmly spiced honey mustard, because you always need a creamy option.

One sauce is grand, but three is a party — even if you're eating the whole plate on your own.

Shrimp cocktail

Makes: 8 servings

Total time: 15 minutes

For the shrimp:

2 pounds large (21- to 25-count) shrimp, shelled and deveined
Kosher salt
8 cups ice cubes (about 2 pounds), plus more for serving
1/4 cup mild red chile powder, gochugaru or sweet paprika with a dash of ground cayenne
1 tablespoon celery seeds
2 lemons

For the cocktail sauce:

1/2 cup ketchup
3 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
1 large garlic clove, finely grated
Kosher salt and black pepper
Tabasco sauce

For the garlicky dill butter:

1/2 cup unsalted butter
2 large garlic cloves
1/4 packed cup finely chopped fresh dill (from 1 small bunch)
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon sugar
Kosher salt and black pepper

For the curried honey mustard:

1/4 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon curry powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne
Kosher salt and black pepper

1. Make the shrimp: In a large bowl, toss together the shrimp and 2 teaspoons salt, and set aside. Keep the 8 cups ice nearby, either in another large bowl or directly in the icemaker tray of your refrigerator.

2. Meanwhile, fill a large pot with 8 cups water, 1/2 cup salt, the chile powder and celery seeds, and bring to a boil. Remove the pot from the heat and add the shrimp to the hot liquid, stirring occasionally, until just cooked through and no longer translucent on the inside, 2 to 3 minutes.

3. Immediately dump the ice into the pot to stop the cooking, stirring occasionally, until the liquid is cool to warm or room temperature, about 1 minute. Pour the contents of the pot into a colander in the sink, then transfer the drained, celery seed-dotted shrimp to a large platter and refrigerate until ready to eat. Cut the

lemons into quarters lengthwise, then cut each piece in half crosswise.

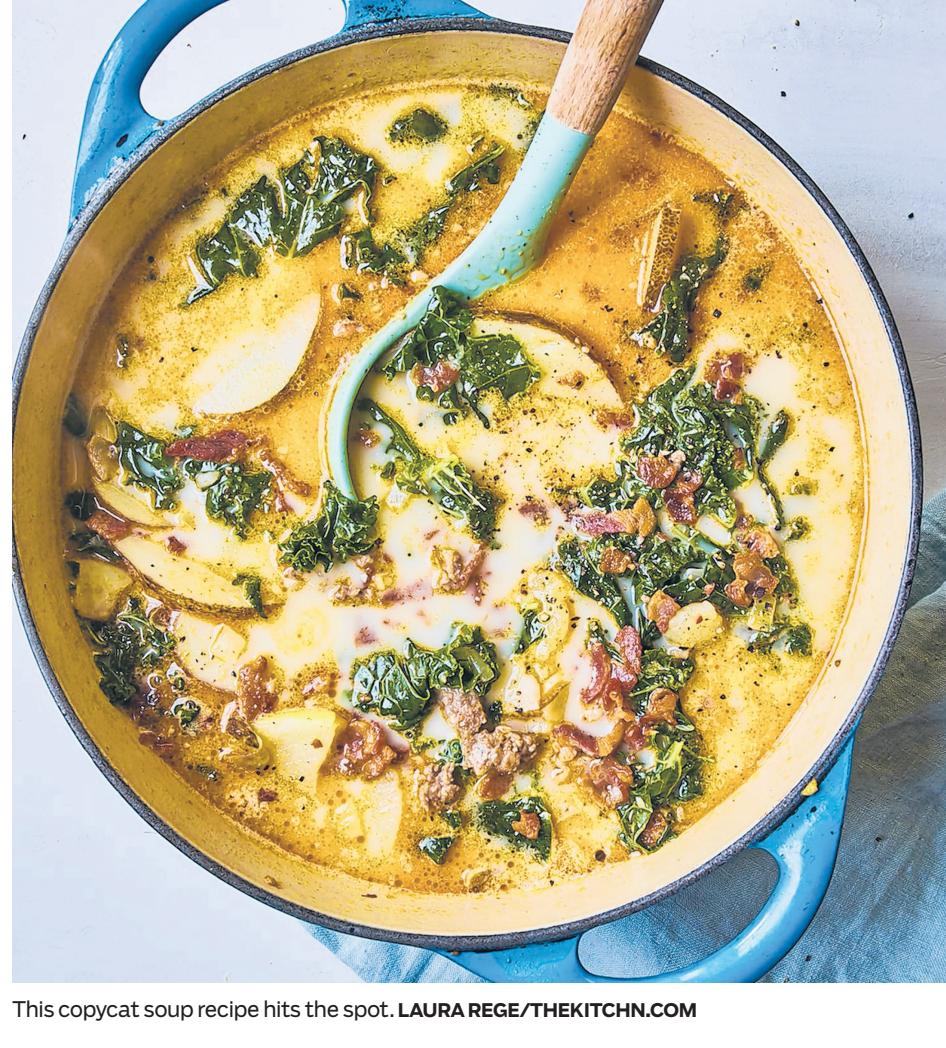
4. Make the cocktail sauce: In a small bowl, stir the ketchup, lemon juice, horseradish and garlic to combine, and season to taste with salt, pepper and Tabasco sauce.

5. Make the garlicky dill butter: Melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium-low heat or in the microwave. Add the garlic, dill, lemon juice and sugar to a small bowl and stir in the hot melted butter. Season generously with salt and pepper.

6. Make the curried honey mustard:

In a small bowl, stir the mayonnaise, mustard, honey, lemon juice, curry powder and cayenne to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper. All three sauces can be stored in separate airtight containers in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. (The dill butter will need to be reheated in the microwave or on the stove over medium-low heat until liquid again.)

7. To serve, cover a large platter with cubed or crushed ice, top with the poached and cooled shrimp and scatter the lemon pieces all over. Serve with one or more of the dipping sauces on the side.



This copycat soup recipe hits the spot. LAURA REGE/THEKITCHN.COM

Toscana

from Page 1

Zuppa Toscana

Makes: 6 servings

4 slices bacon (about 4 ounces)

1 small yellow onion

2 large cloves garlic

1 pound uncooked spicy Italian sausage

1 tablespoon olive oil

1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes

1 1/2 pounds russet potatoes (about 3 medium)

1 (32-ounce) carton (4 cups) low-sodium chicken broth

3 cups water

1 bunch curly leaf kale (about 8 ounces)

1/2 cup heavy cream

1 tablespoon white wine vinegar

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed

Freshly ground black pepper

1. Finely chop 4 slices bacon. Finely chop 1 small yellow onion (about 1 cup) and

mince 2 large garlic cloves. Remove and discard casings from 1 pound spicy Italian sausage if needed.

2. Place bacon in a large pot over medium heat and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden and crisp, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer with a slotted spoon to a paper towel-lined plate. Pour off and discard bacon fat in pot.

3. Return pot to medium heat. Add 1 tablespoon olive oil, the onion and 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes, and

cook until softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook, stirring often, until fragrant and light golden, about 1 minute. Add the sausage and

cook, breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon, until no longer pink and cooked through, 5 to 7 minutes.

Meanwhile, slice 1 1/2 pounds russet potatoes crosswise into 1/8-inch-thick rounds.

4. Add 1 (32-ounce) carton low-sodium chicken broth, 3 cups water and the potatoes to the pot. Bring to a boil

over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium and simmer, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are just tender, about 6 minutes. Meanwhile, strip leaves from stems of 1 bunch curly kale.

Discard the stems and tear the leaves into 1- to 1 1/2-inch pieces (about 6 packed cups).

5. Add kale to soup and

cook until just wilted, about 2 minutes. Add 1/2 cup heavy

cream, 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar, 1/2 teaspoon

kosher salt and a few grinds of black pepper, and stir to

combine. Taste and season with more kosher salt and black pepper as needed.

Serve topped with bacon.

Notes: For less heat, use

sweet Italian sausage. For

more heat, double amount

of red pepper flakes. Leftover

soup can be refrigerated in

airtight containers for up to

five days, or frozen for up to

three months. Thaw in the

refrigerator overnight before

reheating.

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5 of the best wineglasses money can buy

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

For the past couple of months I've been drinking luxuriously.

The bottles have been no different — they are the usual mix depending on regions, grapes and producers I'm curious about and articles I'm working on, with the occasional treat. But I've been pouring wine into five of the best wineglasses money can buy.

Over most of the past decade, the top glass among wine lovers was the Zalto Denk'Art Universal, which, when I first encountered it in 2011, seemed fundamentally different and radically better than the other leading glasses.

But in the past few years, several other high-end glasses have been challenging Zalto's supremacy, which brought me to these five lead-free crystal universal glasses, each precisely designed (and marketed) to be the only glass anybody would need to drink every sort of wine.

Anybody, that is, willing to pay the roughly \$60 to \$90 price per glass.

Most wine drinkers, admittedly, will neither want nor need such rarefied glasses. Many casual drinkers are happy these days to use inexpensive goblets or even stemless glasses, which I would not seek out.

Wine shows best in smartly shaped stemmed glasses, in which the bowl is large enough that a pour filling a quarter of the glass is generous. The bowl should be transparent, without etching or decoration, widest near the base and tapering inward to the rim to channel aromas upward.

Holding the glass by the stem helps avoid finger smudges and prevents the wine from being warmed by the heat of the hand. (This is why I generally don't care for stemless glasses.)

High-end glasses are for



These five lead-free crystal universal glasses were each precisely designed (and marketed) to be the only glass anybody would need to drink every sort of wine. **TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

people who care deeply about wine, who invest in their collections and drink with consideration and reverence. If wine occupies an important role in life, the choice of glasses is crucial and may demand this sort of considerable commitment.

For people like this, wineglasses must be aesthetically pleasing but, above all, functional, enhancing the perception of wines that can often be subtle, nuanced and, in the case of older vintages, fragile and fleeting.

Choosing wineglasses is a little like selecting a car: Even the least-expensive vehicle will get you where you want to go, but the trip is a different experience in the finest Mercedes-Benz.

The five glasses I've been testing since November include the Zalto Universal and four competitors: the Gabriel-Glas Gold Edition; the Wine Glass, from the

partnership of Jancis Robinson, a renowned British wine writer, and designer Richard Brendon; the Sensory Glass, designed by Roberto Conterno of the great Barolo producer Giacomo Conterno, in conjunction with Zwiesel Kristallglas, a German manufacturer; and the Josephine Universal from Josephinenhütte.

It was designed by Kurt Josef Zalto — that Zalto — who left his eponymous company some time ago.

"In order to grow faster, I made the compromise of accepting foreign investors into my company," he told Forbes magazine in December 2020. "I was pushed out and they kept the 'Zalto' name."

It's worth recalling the impact of the Zaltos when they arrived in the United States in 2010. I will always remember my first encounter in early 2011.

It was at a tasting in

New York City. I believe the subject of the day was Valtellina, but in this instance, I recall the glasses better than the wine.

Stemmed glasses typically have a curved bowl, with some standard variations. The two most typical are the Burgundy glass, with a big, broad bowl that tapers inward toward the top, and the Bordeaux glass, taller with a narrower bowl that likewise curves inward toward the lip.

The Zalto was tall like a Bordeaux glass but rather than gently curving and arcing upward, it angled up abruptly and inward in rather a straight line. It seemed impossibly thin and light, a sensual pleasure to hold. As I swirled wine in the glass, the stem seemed to bend back and forth, delicate yet flexible and strong.

Most important, the aromas and flavors of the wine presented themselves

with clarity and intensity. Altogether the glass was a joy. I bought a set of six almost immediately after the tasting, not cheap at more than \$50 apiece but worth it for supplementing the conventional, serviceable Riedel Vinum Cabernet glasses that I had long been using daily at home.

The arrival of the Zalto Universal filled a void left by Riedel, the leading wineglass producer at the time. Riedel's high-end crystal glasses were of exceptional quality, but the company made a selling point of painstakingly creating specialized glasses.

Of the five I tried, the Gabriel-Glas and the Jancis were very much in the Zalto mold. The Jancis has a slightly shorter stem, and the base of the bowl was more gently rounded and narrow. The Gabriel-Glas was wider at the base of the bowl than the Zalto and more abruptly

angled inward; it was also the lightest of the glasses, almost feathery in the hand. To my eyes, the Jancis seemed the most classically beautiful.

The Josephine resembled the Zalto, with a significant difference: The bowl bulged slightly around the lowest part of its circumference as if it had a circular love handle before beginning to taper toward the rim, in a gentle arc rather than the Zalto's straight line.

What's the purpose of this unusual shape? "When the wine is agitated in the glass, the kink breaks this movement and allows the wine to flow back into the belly in a spiral motion," a Josephinenhütte representative told me. "In doing so, it absorbs additional oxygen."

The last glass, the Conterno Sensory, was the real outlier. It was shaped like a classic Burgundy stem, shorter than the others with a much broader, rounder bowl, which tapered inward toward the rim before gently flaring upward.

Spoiler alert: These are all wonderful glasses, gorgeous to look at and delightful to hold. Each was superior to the Riedel Vinum, the far cheaper and less exalted glass I've used at home for years.

People who love wine and are willing to invest in top-end glasses have a lot of options. Josephinenhütte, like Zalto, also offers glasses designated for whites, reds and sparklers. Those with unlimited budget and space can follow the specialized Riedel route.

If you believe in the philosophy of one great glass for all wines, as I do, you won't go wrong with any of these five glasses. I suspect many will find their own subjective reasons to embrace one of them. They all made me happy, but I am glad I invested in those Zaltos 11 years ago. I think they are still hard to beat.



Whipped egg whites add volume to these cookies. **SCOTT MORGAN/EATINGWELL**

Enjoy a sweet homemade treat this Valentine's Day

By Hilary Meyer | EatingWell

These flourless cookies get their volume from whipped egg whites (like a meringue) instead of grains, making them gluten-free and melt-in-your-mouth delicious. A chocolate chip in each bite adds to the rich chocolate flavor.

Flourless chocolate cookies

Makes: 16 cookies

Active time: 15 minutes

Total time: 40 minutes

1 cup confectioners' sugar

1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

1/8 teaspoon salt

2 large egg whites

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/2 cup bittersweet chocolate chips or

chunks, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper. Coat the paper with cooking spray.

2. Combine confectioners' sugar, cocoa and

salt in a medium bowl. Beat egg whites in a large mixing bowl with an electric mixer

until soft peaks form. Add vanilla. Fold in the cocoa mixture with a rubber spatula until combined. Fold in chocolate chips (or chunks).

3. Drop the batter by tablespoonfuls onto the prepared baking sheets, leaving about 2 inches between each cookie. Bake, one sheet at a time, until the cookies are just beginning to crack on top, 12 to 14 minutes. Let cool slightly on the pan before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Recipe nutrition per serving: 74 calories, total fat: 2 g, saturated fat: 1 g, cholesterol: 1 mg, carbohydrates: 13 g, fiber: 1 g, total sugars: 11 g, protein: 1 g, sodium: 27 mg, potassium: 68 mg, phosphorus: 26 mg, iron: 1 mg, folate: 1 mcg, calcium: 6 mg, vitamin A: 3 IU, vitamin C: 0 mg, vitamin D: 0 IU

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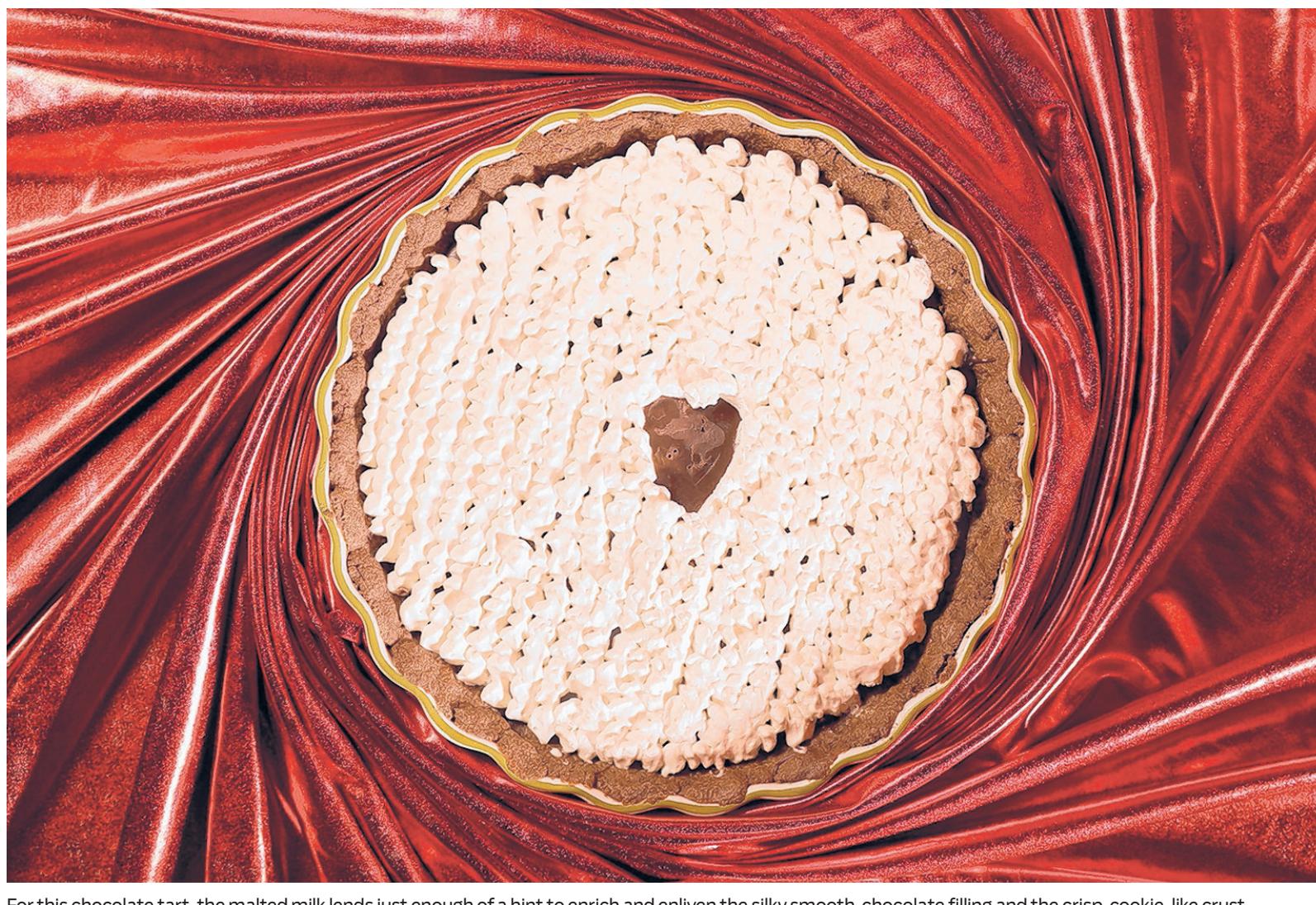
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For this chocolate tart, the malted milk lends just enough of a hint to enrich and enliven the silky smooth, chocolate filling and the crisp, cookie-like crust.

CHRISTIAN GOODEN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH PHOTOS

Malted milk chocolate tart

Makes: 8 to 10 servings
 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plus 1 tablespoon granulated sugar, divided
 1 large egg yolk
 1 cup all-purpose flour
 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon for dusting, optional
 10 ounces milk chocolate, finely chopped
 2 ounces 70% cacao bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups heavy whipping cream, divided
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup plus 3 tablespoons malted milk powder, such as Ovaltine (yellow label, not chocolate-flavored), divided

1. For the crust: Place the butter and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the sugar in a mixing bowl and beat on medium speed until smooth and creamy, 3 minutes. Scrape down the bowl with a spatula; if any lumps of hard butter are still visible, beat for another minute until completely blended. Add the yolk and beat well. Scrape down the bowl.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons of the cocoa powder. Add to the butter mixture all at once. Mix at the lowest speed and blend just until the dough comes together; some of the clumps will still be medium and small. The dough should look moist and have a dark, uniform color. Scrape down the bowl, mixing by hand with the spatula if there are patches of flour or unincorporated butter. If the dough is too sticky, chill 15 minutes before continuing.

3. Scrape the dough clumps into a 9- or 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch tart pan. Use the heel of your hand to press the dough into an even layer across the bottom and up the sides of the pan. Press from the center of the pan upward, building up some extra dough where the bottom meets the side. Using your thumbs, press this excess up the sides of the pan to form the walls, making sure the dough is level with the pan at the rim. Make sure there are no cracks or thin spots. Reserve any small bits of leftover dough. Chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour or 30 minutes in the freezer.

4. Bake the shell: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and position an oven rack in the center. Bake the tart shell for 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven, close the oven door and check for cracks. Repair any cracks with a bit of the reserved dough. Bake 15 to 17 minutes longer; place on a rack to cool completely.

5. Prepare the filling: Combine the milk chocolate and bittersweet chocolate in a medium bowl. In a small saucepan, heat 1 cup of the cream until it just begins to boil. Remove from the heat and whisk in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plus 2 tablespoons of the malted milk powder until dissolved. Immediately pour the cream over the chocolates and let the mixture sit for 1 minute, then whisk the blend until completely combined. Pour into the cooled tart crust. Refrigerate for 1 hour, or until the filling is set and firm.

6. Finish the tart: Use a stand mixer with a whisk attachment or a hand-held mixer to whip the remaining 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cream, the remaining 1 tablespoon sugar and the remaining 1 tablespoon malted milk powder to medium peaks (whipping it to stiff peaks will turn it grainy; if this happens, stir in a tablespoon or two of extra cream until it smooths out).

Transfer the whipped cream to a pastry bag (or plastic bag with a small hole in one corner) fitted with a tip of your choice and pipe the whipped cream across the tart. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

7. To serve, use a fine-mesh sieve to dust the top with the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of cocoa powder, if desired. Cut the tart with a thin, sharp knife that has been warmed in hot water and wiped dry. The tart may be kept in a refrigerator for 3 days, however the whipped cream may start to break down.

— Recipe from "The Art & Soul of Baking" by Cindy Mushet

Say it with chocolate

On Valentine's Day, calories don't count

By Daniel Neman
 St. Louis Post-Dispatch

On Valentine's Day, chocolate is romance. On Valentine's Day, romance is chocolate.

Either way, there is a definite mid-February correlation between love and the popular product of refined cacao beans.

This year, I made three chocolate-based dishes for my Valentine. She swooned, which is pretty much the reaction I was hoping for.

I started with an old-fashioned chocolate cake, albeit one with a newfangled addition of nearly melted chocolate chips scattered throughout. The cake was marvelously moist, courtesy of a cup of corn oil — it's Valentine's Day, so calories don't matter.

It was also doubly chocolatey; the chocolate in the cake itself was enlivened with additional hits of chocolate from the chocolate chips.

And then it was hit with a triple dose of chocolate from the cocoa-based frosting around the cake and between each of the three layers.

Eating it was like being enveloped by a comforting cloud of chocolate.

But I prefer pies, so I made a tart, too — it's the next best thing to a pie. But it wasn't an ordinary tart. This was a malted milk chocolate tart.

It was easier than it sounds. It was also better than it sounds, even though it sounds pretty terrific.

The crust was simple to pull together: It's just flour,

sugar, cocoa, butter and an egg yolk mixed together and pressed into a tart pan. (I'll admit, my crust stuck pretty firmly to the pan.) And the filling was a ganache, and there is nothing easier than a ganache. You just pour hot cream over chocolate until it all blends together.

The secret ingredient is the malted milk powder. I used Ovaltine, which also goes into the whipped cream topping.

The malted milk flavor is subtle. It lends just enough of a hint to enrich and enliven the silky smooth, chocolate filling and the crisp, cookie-like crust.

I also made a chocolate cœur à la crème, which is the French version of the chocolate-romance rule.

It is a cream heart, and it is light and airy and ethereal and absolutely spectacular.

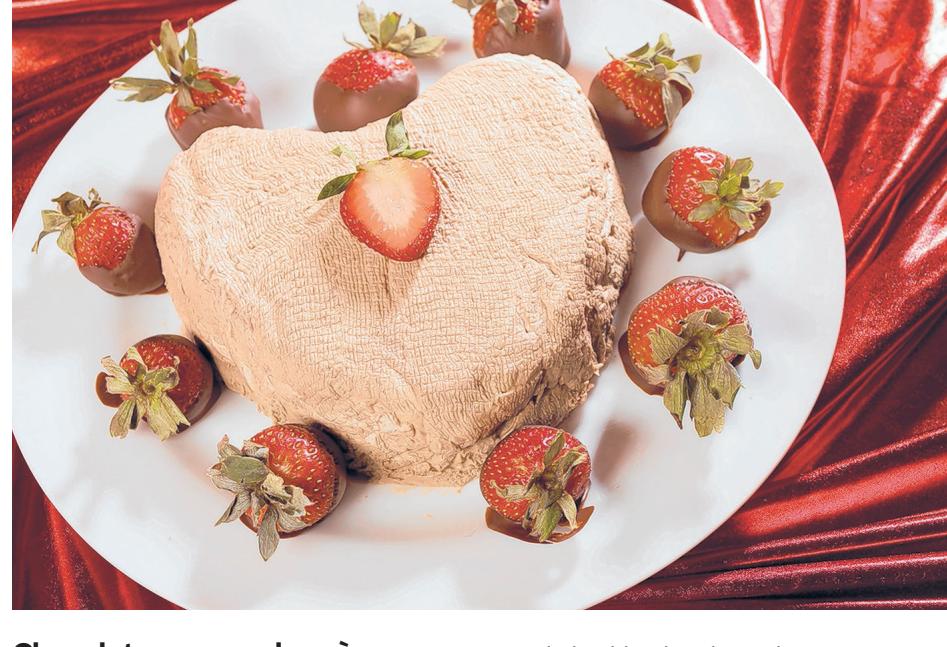
There are as many ways to make cœur à la crème as there are people who know how to pronounce it. I chose a method that guarantees featheriness and delicacy.

All you do is fold whipped cream (with vanilla and powdered sugar in it) into a mixture of whipped cream cheese and melted chocolate.

The light sweetness of the whipped cream balances beautifully with the light sourness of the whipped cream cheese, and the chocolate — which is also light — ties it all together with a romantic bow.

Chocolate-dipped strawberries lend heft and substance to the dish, along with the complementary flavor of strawberry and a heartier shock of chocolate.

The cœur part of cœur à la crème means "heart," because the dish is traditionally made in a heart-shaped mold with holes in the bottom to allow excess



Chocolate cœur à la crème

Makes: 6 servings

1 cup heavy cream
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup powdered sugar
 8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
 2 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped and melted

6 (6-inch) squares cheesecloth (or a 12-inch square for a large mold), dampened with water

6 (4-inch) cœur à la crème molds or 1 (8-inch) mold, see note

For the chocolate-dipped strawberries:

4 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
 12 fresh strawberries, rinsed and dried, at room temperature

Note: If you do not have a cœur à la crème mold, simply poke small holes in the bottom of 6 (3-inch) paper cups.

1. Put the cream and vanilla in a medium-size mixing bowl and beat at medium speed until soft peaks form. Add the powdered sugar and continue beating until stiff peaks form. Set aside.

2. In another medium-size mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese at medium speed until fluffy. Add the melted chocolate and beat until smooth, scraping down the sides as

needed. Fold in the whipped cream.

3. Line each mold with a square of the dampened cheesecloth. Divide the chocolate cream mixture evenly among the molds. Fold each overhanging cheesecloth over the top. Place the molds on a wire rack set on a baking sheet. Refrigerate overnight, or at least 8 hours.

4. Make the chocolate-dipped strawberries:

Line a baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper. Stir the chocolate in the top of a double boiler or in a metal mixing bowl set over hot (but not simmering) water until melted and smooth. Remove from the water. Holding a strawberry by the stem or hull, dip two-thirds of it into the chocolate.

Shake gently to remove the excess. Place the strawberry on the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining strawberries. (Set the chocolate over the hot water to soften if necessary while working.) Refrigerate the berries until the chocolate is firm, about 30 minutes.

5. When ready to serve, carefully remove the hearts from the molds and gently remove the cheesecloth. Serve the hearts on individual plates with the chocolate-dipped strawberries. You can make this up to several days in advance.

— Recipe by Emeril Lagasse

liquid to drain out. (No liquid at all came out of mine; I think because of the ingredients I used.)

I happen to have a cœur à la crème mold (I know, right?), but if you don't, don't worry. You can make

it just as easily in paper cups or other disposable items into which you have poked holes.

Old-fashioned chocolate cake with cocoa frosting

Makes: 8 to 10 servings

3 cups all-purpose flour
 2 cups granulated sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plus 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, divided
 2 teaspoons baking soda
 1 teaspoon salt

2 cups cold water
 1 cup corn oil
 1 tablespoon plus 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons vanilla extract, divided

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups semisweet chocolate chips
 10 tablespoons (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature

5 cups powdered sugar, divided

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup (about) whole milk

1. For the cake: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour 3 (9-inch) cake pans. Sift flour, granulated sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the cocoa, baking soda and salt into a medium bowl. In a large bowl, mix



the cold water, corn oil and 1 tablespoon of the vanilla. Whisk in the flour mixture. Divide the batter equally among the pans (there will not be much in any of

the pans). Sprinkle $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chocolate chips over the batter in each pan.

2. Bake cakes until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean, about 25

minutes (avoid putting tester in a chocolate chip; it will not come out clean even if fully baked). Cool pans on racks 15 minutes. Cut around pan sides to loosen. Turn

cakes out onto racks; cool completely.

3. For the frosting: Beat butter in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in 3 cups of the powdered sugar. Beat in the milk and the remaining 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons vanilla. Add the remaining 3 tablespoons cocoa and the remaining 2 cups powdered sugar; beat until blended, thinning with more milk if necessary.

4. Place 1 cake layer, chocolate-chips side up, on platter. Spread $\frac{2}{3}$ cup frosting over the layer. Top with second cake layer, chocolate-chips side up. Spread $\frac{2}{3}$ cup frosting over. Top with remaining cake layer, chocolate-chips side down. Spread remaining frosting over sides and top of cake. Can be prepared 1 day ahead; cover with cake dome and let stand at room temperature.

— Recipe from "The Bon Appétit Cookbook" by Barbara Fairchild

— Recipe from "The Art & Soul of Baking" by Cindy Mushet